



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Publication of the
Southwest Region
April, 2020



Southwest Region Staff

Commander

Col. Joe R. Smith, CAP

Vice Commander East

Col. Nolan Teel, CAP

Vice Commander West

Col. Brian Ready, CAP

Chief of Staff

Lt. Col. Harriet Smith, CAP

CAP-USAF Liaison Region Commander

Lt. Col. Jamir Gray, USAF

Director of Public Affairs & Newsletter Editor

Lt. Col. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP

– oOo –

The Fly-By is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter. Deadline for submissions are:

1Q – 20 December

2Q – 20 March

3Q – 20 June

4Q – 20 September

Text may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred) or as a document attached to an e-mail (a .txt or Word .doc/docx, or, if written in another word processor, saved as an .RTF).

Images in JPG format, un-retouched, un-cropped, and at least 1200 x 900 pixels, sent as attachments, never embedded in the document.

Credits: In all cases, please give full grade, name and unit of assignment of

- The article's author(s),
- Photographer, and
- Anyone in the article or appearing in photos.

– oOo –

Send submissions to the Editor at:

awoodgate@austin.rr.com

Message size limit: 20 MB

SWR Commander's Corner

Listed below are the recipients of the Civil Air Patrol, Southwest Region annual awards for performance in 2019. I sincerely appreciate and congratulate the outstanding volunteers being recognized for their very significant contributions to our organization, communities and nation.

Maj Gen Jeanne M. Holm Aerospace Officer of the Year: Capt. Janice R. Podgurski, 611462, SWR-AR-083

Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year: Lt. Col. James D. Peace, 219610, SWR-TX-808

Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Awards Individual/ Organization: Charleston Middle School, Charleston, Arkansas

Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Awards CAT II, CAP Senior Member: Maj. Jessica D. Makin, 546315, SWR-NM-811

Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Awards, Lifetime Achievement: Lt. Col. Kathleen E. Beauford, 130078, SWR-LA-093

Cadet of the Year: Cadet Col. Bethany G. Wilson, 554771, SWR-OK-155

AFSA Cadet NCO of the Year: Cadet Master Sgt. Eliana Lucia Armstrong, 586522, SWR-NM-811

John V. "Jack" Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year: Capt. Larry A. Morgan, 558427, SWR-LA-009

Character Development Instructor of the Year: Maj. Patricia J. Schmidt, 506776, SWR-AR-083

Squadron Chaplain of the Year: Chaplain (Maj.) Keith M. Palmer, 573869, SWR-TX-441

Senior Chaplain of the Year: Chaplain (Maj.) Anthony E. Barros, 537581, SWR-OK-116

Communicator of the Year: Lt. Col. Charles G. Bishop, Jr., 129006, SWR-AR-001

Director of Finance of the Year: Maj. John R. English, 464555, SWR-NM-030

Colonel Dion E. DeCamp Ground Team of the Year: Maj. Jared P. Cryer, 253554, SWR-TX-413

Col Edwin W. Lewis, Jr. Incident Staff Member of the Year: Lt. Col. G. Marchelle Jones, 340107, SWR-AR-067

Col Robert V. "Bud" Payton PAO of the Year: Capt. Margot A. Myers, 117680, SWR-AZ-013

Property Management Officer of the Year: Capt. Jordan A. Aasgaard, 501082, SWR-TX-040

David Kantor Operations Staff Officer of the Year: Lt. Col. Aaron E. Oliver, 228458, SWR-OK-113

Aircrew Member of the Year: Maj. Arno R. Leuthardt, 412399, SWR-TX-413

Safety Officer of the Year: Capt. Dolly M. Mickle, 530282, SWR-AZ-078

Historian of the Year: Lt. Col. David G. Finley, 421526, SWR-NM-084

Senior Member of the Year: Maj. Peter L. Iannone, Jr., 102636, SWR-AZ-083

Squadron of Distinction: Apollo Composite Squadron, SWR-TX-371, Georgetown, Texas

Paul Turner Safety Award: Arizona Wing. 

Col. Joe R. Smith, CAP
Southwest Region Commander

Safety is Priority One

Please read the latest issue of The Safety Beacon for timely, seasonal advice at <http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>

Have you taken the **Operational Risk Management** Basic, Intermediate and Advanced online courses? Please visit: http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety_education/

- Safety must be on every CAP member's mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Don't miss the Safety Specialty Track training posted at <http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety-newsletters-2248/>
- ***Safety is our Number One Priority.***

How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter

Which Articles Are Best?

Ideally, articles should deal with a wing-wide event, preferably conducted in conjunction or coordinated with another wing (or better yet across regions).

Individual articles dealing with a subject that is of interest to a broad audience qualify as well.

Articles bylined by cadets, especially when the subject is of interest to a broad audience, are also welcome.

Do I Submit Photos?

Articles with no photos may not be selected for publication. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, full-size digital photos as attachments. Photo file size of under 500 KB may not be suitable for publication.

If You Have Article Ideas or Suggestions

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to comment on the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: awoodgate@austin.rr.com. 



Top: Civil Air Patrol planes lined up on the ramp at Falcon Base awaiting their scheduled flights during the Falcon Virgo exercise. (Photo: Capt. Bruce McDonald, CAP)

Civil Air Patrol Pilots Support National Defense Initiative

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

EL PASO, Texas – During March 18-22, 2020, 18 Civil Air Patrol airplanes and 62 CAP members supported the Mississippi Army National Guard in an exercise designed to prepare Guard members for an upcoming deployment. Acting in its capacity as the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, CAP worked with the Guard to certify operators who will soon be deployed to Washington, D.C., in support of air defense efforts.

The exercise, called Falcon Virgo, is regularly conducted to test responses, systems and equipment. In this exercise, the mission for Civil Air Patrol pilots is to simulate incursions into restricted airspace for National Guard members who will be responsible for protecting the skies in and around Washington. This is a certification process that occurs regularly for Guard members who will replace those currently on assignment in Washington.

CAP pilots in single-engine Cessna airplanes acted as tracks-of-interest (TOI) and entered into restricted airspace while NORAD aircrews responded, honing their intercept skills. In this case, the training area was a restricted Army range in Texas, which was simulated as restricted airspace in Washington. Guard members then had to secure the airspace. The number of airplanes in the exercise area increased as the replacement Guard members demonstrated their ability to track more aircraft.

The U.S. Coast Guard, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, also provided intercept services to the Guard members so they could practice intercepting aircraft flying a TOI, as determined by the trainees.

“In a time when all Department of Defense units are under travel restrictions, CAP was still supporting this essential training mission as tasked by our parent organization, the U.S. Air Force,” said CAP’s Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith. “What our volunteer professionals do to help train active duty servicemembers as part of the Total Force is invaluable.” CAP aligns under NORAD’s Continental U.S. Region.

Flights on the range ran 24 hours a day during March 18-22, 2020. CAP airplanes made about 18 flights per day (six per each eight-hour shift) along routes designated by the exercise evaluators to meet training objectives.

Falcon Virgo is a recurring exercise in support of Operation Noble Eagle, which started as the military response to the terrorist attack of 9/11 to place a greater emphasis on the surveillance and control of airspace over Canada and the United States. 🇺🇸



Top: Former Korean War POW Manuel Martinez addresses Military Day attendees on the importance of remembering prisoners of war and those missing in action. (At right: New Mexico National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Kenneth Nava.) (Photo: S.M. Mario Valenzuela, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Composite Squadron Participates in Military Day Event

by S.M. Mario Valenzuela, CAP, New Mexico Wing

SANTA FE, N.M. – On January 25, 2020, New Mexico Wing's Santa Fe Composite Squadron participated in the Military Day celebration at the New Mexico State Capitol building. Squadron members manned a recruiting booth, displaying brochures and informational packets about Civil Air Patrol at the activity, which included other booths, ranging from veterans' resource groups to the New Mexico National Guard.

Usually, the event is held on a legislative session day, where CAP cadets deliver packets with thank-you letters and membership applications to all legislators. While CAP is a congressionally chartered, federally supported non-profit corporation, CAP also receives funding from states, therefore New Mexico legislative support is very much appreciated. This state funding helps CAP conduct state missions.

Since this year's Military Day fell on a Saturday, the legislature was not in session. Manuel Martinez, who had been a prisoner of war (POW) during the Korean War, gave a heartfelt speech about freedom and the sacrifices that the brave men and women of the armed forces make to secure that freedom.

The focal point for this year's Military Day was remembrance of those who are still missing in action (MIA), those who were formerly MIA, and POWs. Maj. Gen. Kenneth Nava, the New Mexico National Guard adjutant general, announced a call to action for everybody to make POW/MIA Recognition Day better known in New Mexico. Attendees agreed that the general gave a moving and memorable speech.

The CAP team at the event included New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters, New Mexico Wing Chief of Staff Lt. Col John Gravel, Santa Fe Composite Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Angie Slingluff, and Santa Fe Composite Squadron Cadet Commander Cadet 2nd Lt. Forest Nelson.

According to Slingluff, several individuals at the event were interested in joining CAP. Since CAP is a volunteer organization, recruitment is very important, and Military Day was an opportunity for CAP to make itself known to the general public. 🇺🇸



Top: Incident Commander Lt. Col. Larry Bevis is briefed by IC Staff members. (L-R, facing) Maj. Israel Perez, 1st Lt. George Hannon, Col. Jim Emory, Maj. Bill Herold and Lt. Col. Bevis. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Eric Holtzclaw, CAP)

Below: A birds-eye view of ground teams from Muskogee converge on the sighting of a downed crewmember, in a rural part of the state. (Photo: 1st Lt. Tamara Shannon, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Conducts a Multiple-Disaster Field Exercise

by 2nd Lt. Eric Holtzclaw, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

PIEDMONT, Okla. – On February 15, 2020, 117 Civil Air Patrol (CAP) volunteers participated in a simulated multiple-disaster exercise, designed to test the wing's emergency services and disaster response capabilities in dealing with a hypothetical large-scale earthquake and a huge tornado that resulted in much highway infrastructure damage, a devastated town, flooding, loss of communications, a downed aircraft, and lost crewmembers. All simulated events happened simultaneously. To meet these challenges, Oklahoma Wing activated a main Incident Command Center (ICC) at Sundance Airport in Piedmont, Oklahoma and a satellite Command and Communications Facility (CCF) at Muskogee Davis Field in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

The exercise started with scenario messages being sent to the command staff, that resulted in the Saturday wing-wide activation with various scenarios and exercise inputs provided by the evaluation team. With local communications disabled, the ICC immediately deployed "High-bird" aircraft to establish communications links between the two command locations and launch facilities. Seven CAP aircraft and multiple-sortie



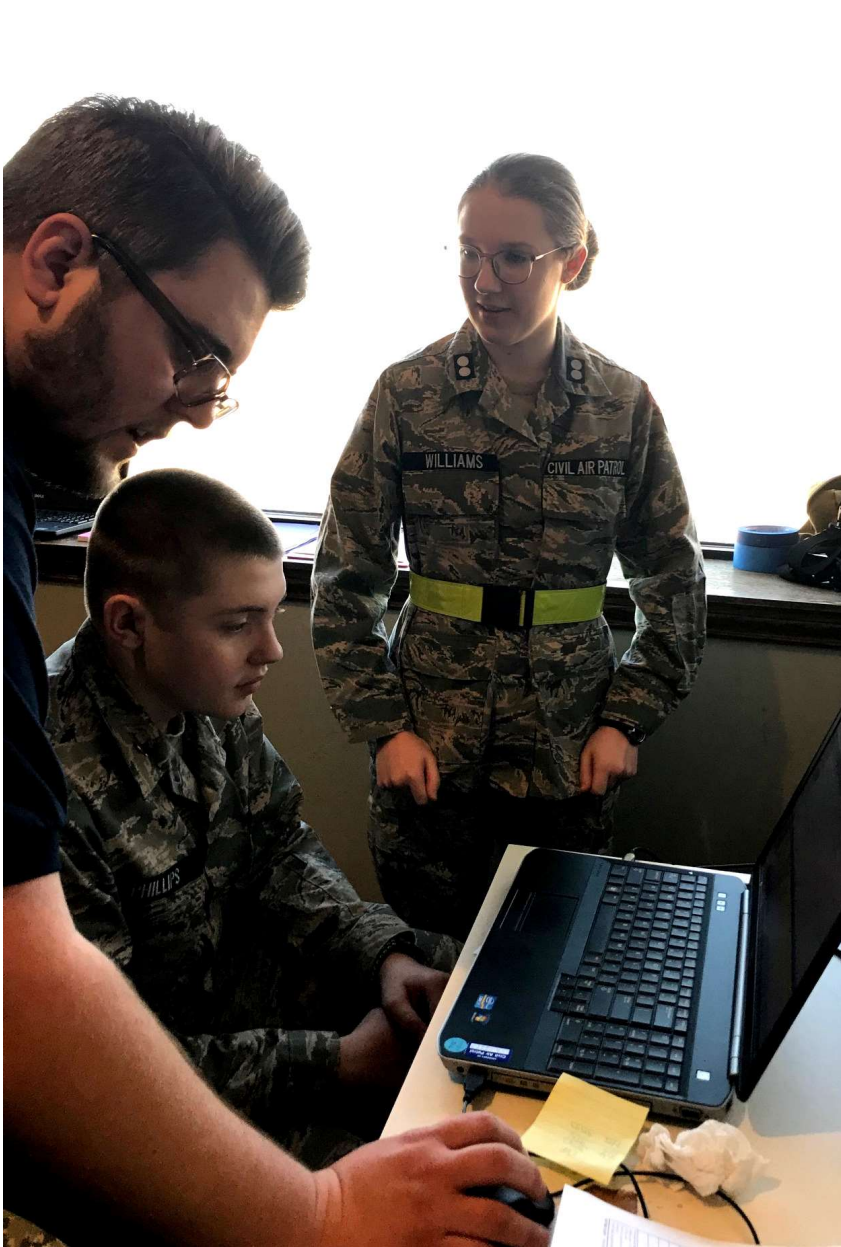
missions were deployed to evaluate and assess damaged areas and report back to the ICC, who would relay the data and information to homeland security partners along with federal, state and local emergency management agencies.

Left: (L-R) 2nd Lt. Victor Van Herreweghe briefs Cadet Staff Sgt. Devin Phillips and Cadet 1st Lt. Shelby Williams on the latest message traffic to be relayed via radio. (Photo: 2d Lt. Eric Holtzclaw, CAP)

Below: Cadet Sr. Airman Chloe Shannon prepares her radio to talk as a ground team member looking for a missing crew member. (Photo: 1st Lt Tamara Shannon, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Director of Emergency Services Lt. Col. David McCollum said, "These types of exercises are critical and necessary to train our members on how to respond and react to real-world situations. This was a great opportunity for our trainers to mentor other members on the conduct of emergency operations."

Maj. Rick Fox, who worked as an airborne photographer, was tasked with taking damage assessment photography of multiple large structures and bridges. He said, "It is good to test our ability to make



available the much-need collection of photos and damage assessment data to those who can provide services to others. The communications capabilities that CAP provides through "High-bird" radio communications/relay links is vital to any recovery mission."

1st Lt. Tamara Shannon, who flew two sorties as airborne photographer, said "On the second sortie, I got to combine my two favorite pastimes: flying and photography! It was a simulated mission to photograph flooding around Lake Gibson, but the flooding was actually still present, and the dam was wide open. I really enjoyed this opportunity."

First Lt. George Hannon, who flew one of the High-bird sorties, explained, "The repeater communications link that the 'High-bird' sorties fly is essential for statewide communications." First Lt. Jeffrey Grant also flew the "High-bird" sorties as mission observer. Grant is an active duty Air Force member volunteering in CAP. "I have seen



both sides of training as far as active duty and Civil Air Patrol. The structure is similar to the Air Force, providing needed communications during disasters through the various back-up systems. The training is essential for CAP emergency services readiness", said Grant.

Right: S.M. Bill Baxter logs message traffic on the status board in the communications center. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Eric Holtzclaw, CAP)

Below: 1st Lt Tamara Shannon prepares her camera for the next shot in the mission sortie. (Photo: 1st Lt Tamara Shannon, CAP)

Cadet 1st Lt. Shelby Williams was a Mission Radio Operator in the Communications Branch. She operated radios and relayed messages working side by side with other cadets and adult members. "I thought this was a great experience, learning how to work with radios, gain confidence dealing with mission radio traffic, and member interaction on the communication team," she said. Then added, "I intend to join the active duty Air Force. I feel much better prepared than others my age looking to enter the military or even the civilian work force."

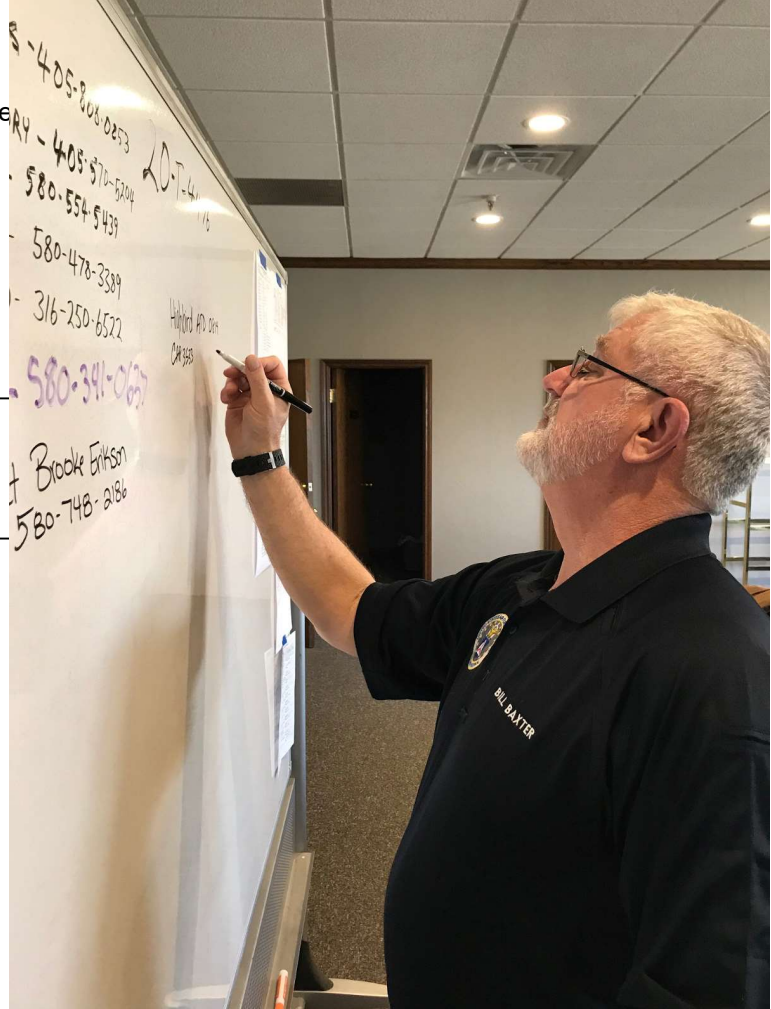
Lt. Col. Brandon Welch led one of the ground teams in locating a lost person and aircraft. "The cadets learn and build great life skills that they can use the rest of their life through learning ground member team training. I was impressed by how

well the cadets performed today, in meeting the mission goals," he said.

Incident Commander Lt. Col. Larry Bevis praised the large attendance and fast response from the volunteers in the wing. "The dedication and support from every participating member, both adults and cadets, was outstanding. These important exercises provide opportunities for trainers to mentor others on the various required tasks so that members can qualify to perform specific job functions during the exercises, training and learning how to deal with disasters," he said.

After the exercise, Mission Safety Officer Lt. Col. Jim Emory said, "Safety is always paramount during real-world and exercise events." He added, "When you bring over 100 adult and cadet volunteers, and deploy them in aircraft, vehicles and working in high-stress situations, the possibility of accidents is there. I was glad to report no mishaps during the exercise."

Oklahoma Wing tests its capabilities at least quarterly each year, as well as responds to real-world requests for assistance. Also, the wing has been involved in real-world support across the country, and is currently in Puerto Rico conducting assessment and emergency services. 🇺🇸





Top: Cadet Capt. Mark Chappell, New Mexico Wing, explains the sUAS team's plan for the day to two members of the Puerto Rico National Guard. (Photo: Capt. Julielynn Wong, MD, CAP)

SWR Members Take the Lead in Puerto Rico Earthquake Response

by Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP, Arizona Wing

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – Beginning on December 28, 2019, and continuing through January 27, 2020, the southwestern part of the island of Puerto Rico was struck by an increasingly steady series of earthquakes, including six that were of magnitude 5.0 or greater. The largest and most damaging of these seismic events occurred on January 7, 2020, at 04:24 AST and had a magnitude 6.4 with a maximum felt intensity of VII (very strong). At least one person was killed, and several others were injured. Days later, a magnitude 6.0 quake

exacerbated the response demands. Millions of dollars in destruction and damage were documented throughout the island, generating back-to-back presidential emergency and disaster declarations.

Right: Capt. Gordon Helm, Arizona Wing, served as the social media unit leader and participated in daily conference calls from his dining room table. (Photo: Capt. Margot Myers, CAP)



Almost at once, the Puerto Rico Wing of Civil Air Patrol responded, supporting both initial damage assessment and water/food supply distribution center manpower needs. Leading CAP's response was a virtual Incident Management Team (IMT), primarily from CAP's Southwest Region. Over a period of three weeks, members from the region filled a variety of positions in the virtual incident command post, which met via conference call three times daily.

Other positions on the IMT were filled by highly qualified CAP members from other regions and wings. Operations and ground branch director positions were filled by members on the ground in Puerto Rico.

A cadet from New Mexico Wing was deployed to the area as part of the initial seven-person small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) team for airborne reconnaissance and photography duties.

Southwest Region members supporting the mission included.

- Lt. Col. Eric Templeton, Texas Wing and NESA deputy director, incident commander
- Lt. Col. Rick Woolfolk, SWR HQs, deputy incident commander and logistics section chief
- Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, Arizona Wing, planning section chief and later incident commander
- Lt. Col. Linda Yaeger, Arizona Wing, resource unit leader
- Maj. Gerry Creager, Oklahoma Wing, weather support officer
- Capt. Margot Myers, Arizona Wing, public information officer
- Capt. Gordon Helm, Arizona Wing, social media unit leader
- Cadet Capt. Mark Chappell, New Mexico Wing, sUAS Team

This was the fifth time in four months that many of the same Southwest Region members came together to set up the "reach-back" capability for the virtual Command and Control and Level I Incident Command System and deployment/employment of CAP resources during an ongoing major disaster. Previous missions included support to Hurricane Dorian in Florida and the international response to the Bahamas; Tropical Storm Imelda in Texas; and both Hurricane Maria recovery and earthquake response in Puerto Rico. Once again, the Southwest Region sent its best to assist another wing, in another region, that was responding to and recovering from a major natural disaster, personifying the doctrine of "One CAP." 🇺🇸

Right: (L-R) Maj. Don Hoy, Capt. Larry Beane, Col. Mike Dubois.
(Photo: CAP PA Team)

Louisiana Wing Conducts a Search and Rescue Exercise

*by S.M. Gilbert Bateman,
CAP, Louisiana Wing*

BATON ROUGE, La. – During February 8-9, 2020, members of Louisiana Wing, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), conducted a search and rescue exercise (SAREX) in the Baton Rouge area, designed to hone their skills in preparation for this year's hurricane season.

Louisiana Wing Commander Col. Pat Yglesias emphasized safety and flexibility of operations, reminding members of the approaching hurricane season in the opening briefing, Col. Yglesias said, "Louisiana has been fortunate enough to avoid a major hurricane in the past few years. CAP must be ready and able to assist when the next storm does occur."

A combined total of 99 personnel, consisting of 57 senior members and 42 cadets, representing 15 squadrons from across the state of Louisiana, descended upon Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport for two days of intensive training, emphasizing airborne photography and search and rescue, in order to test the skills of CAP senior members and cadets.

The exercise included four aircraft with aircrews that flew 13 flights, for a total of 19 hours of flight time. Aircrews also practiced locating an emergency locator transmitter (ELT), taking aerial photography, and performing grid search patterns. These skills proved to be important in the aftermath of 2016 floods, when CAP assisted the Governor's Office in recovery efforts.

Groundcrews practiced locating an ELT and searching for missing persons in wooded areas. Cadets trained to do line searches to locate a mannequin, which stood for a small child, and to perform first aid once the "person" had been recovered.

Air and ground crews were also trained in safety protocols, aircraft ground handling, and proper radio communication procedures.

On February 8, 2020, the exercise took a sudden turn when aircrews on an ELT search began to detect a signal coming from outside the exercise area. The Incident Commander notified the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, as it seemed possible that the training mission could turn into a real-time search and rescue mission. However, it was determined that the emergency signal was coming from an airborne aircraft, and the ELT had been accidentally triggered by the pilot. The exercise concluded without further incident.

As hurricane season approaches, CAP will continue to train and remain watchful, ready to serve their community, state, and nation. 🇺🇸





Top: Members of the Al-Ithawi family. (L-R) mother Jwlan Muhssen, Cadet Staff Sgt. Hussein Al-Ithawi of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron, younger brother Mohanad Jasim, and father Khalid Al-Ithawi. (Not pictured: older brother Mustafa Al-Ithawi) (Photo: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Cadet Becomes a United States Citizen

by 1st Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On March 5, 2020, at the field office of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, Cadet Staff Sgt. Hussein Al-Ithawi, a member of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron, was sworn in as a United States citizen. He had received his passport and verification of citizenship at the end of 2019, but had to wait for the ceremony in order to be officially sworn in.

Also attending the ceremony were Al-Ithawi’s father, Khalid Al-Ithawi, and his mother, Jwlan Muhssen. Al-Ithawi was naturalized along with his younger brother Mohanad Jasim. His older brother, Mustafa Al-Ithawi, and his mother had received their citizenship at an earlier ceremony in September 2019. Al-Ithawi’s father is still waiting for the date of his naturalization ceremony.

Before taking their Oath of Citizenship, all members of the family as a group had received tutoring in English and on the history of the United States. Because Al-Ithawi and his brother were both under the age of 18 at the time, they were both presented Certificates of Citizenship, and

swore the Oath of Citizenship at the ceremony. The entire family now looks forward to the naturalization of their father and husband, Khalid.

Right: (L-R) Cadet Staff Sgt. Al-Ithawi and his younger brother swear the Oath of Citizenship. (Photo: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP).

Below: (L-R) Cadet Staff Sgt. Al-Ithawi shows his Certificate of Citizenship to Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox. (Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Khalid Al-Ithawi)

The Al-Ithawi family has traveled a long road to citizenship, until they arrived in the United States in 2014 as refugees. Squadron members were invited to attend the ceremony, which was otherwise restricted to a few close friends and family.

Advisor to the Commander Lt. Col. Beverly A. Vito, one of the attendees, remarked upon the obstacles the family had to overcome, which included several years spent in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, while fleeing the oppression of Iraq.

"The wonderful thing about this family is that they 'refugeed out' and spent several

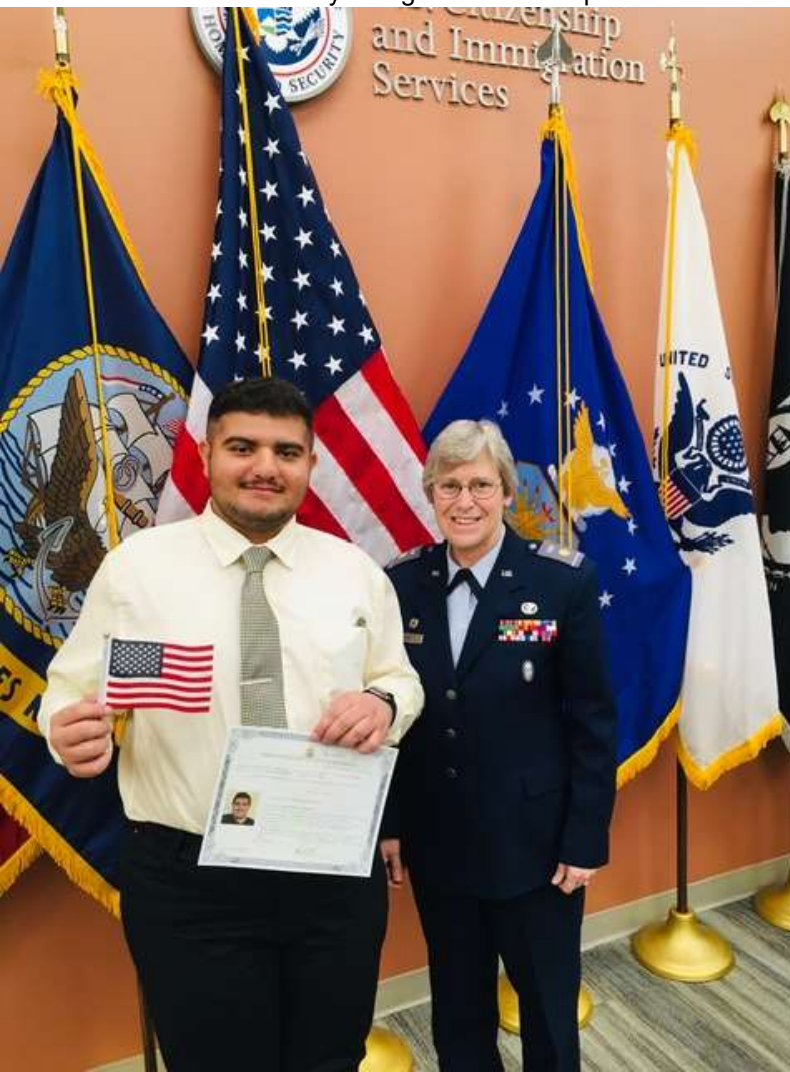


years in Dubai, until they could get permission to enter the United States," said Vito.

"The entire process is a testament to the courage of a family that wanted nothing more than what was better for their children," said Spirit Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox, who also attended the ceremony. "They have waited a long time for this citizenship to happen," she added.

Al-Ithawi has been a member of Civil Air Patrol and the squadron since April 2016. As a permanent resident of the United States at the time, he waited three months for his application for Civil Air Patrol membership to be approved. His love of aviation and his desire to be a pilot kept him on task, as he overcame language barriers and military jargon, to earn the grade of cadet staff sergeant in October 2018.

Fox agreed that for Al-Ithawi to have come this far was a major accomplishment, and the squadron celebrated his citizenship, along with other promotions and awards, at their weekly meeting later on that evening. 🇺🇸





Top: Members of the Arizona Wing delegation to Legislative Day on Capitol Hill included (back row) Col. Rob Pinckard, Capt. Margot Myers, Cadet Lt. Col. Jacob Little, and Cadet Capt. Tristan Obregon; (middle row) Col. Martha Morris and Cadet Capt. Weiss O'Connor; (front row) Maj. Jerad Hoff, Cadet 2nd Lt. Charity Wampler, Cadet 1st Lt. Tera Smeltzer, Maj. Mark Schadt, and Capt. Gordon Helm. (Not pictured: Lt. Col. James Nova) *(Photo by unidentified person)*

Arizona Wing Joins in Legislative Day Visits to Capitol Hill

by Capt. Gordon Helm, CAP, Arizona Wing

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Eleven members of the Arizona Wing joined their Civil Air Patrol counterparts from across the country on February 26-27, 2020, to visit Washington, D.C., and talk with their congressional representatives about the organization's fiscal year 2021 budget request. This annual Legislative Day event helps ensure that Congress understands the continuing need for financial support of the 78-year-old U.S. Air Force Auxiliary.



Above: Senator Martha McSally, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, met with members of the Arizona Wing. Pictured (L-R) are Col. Martha Morris, Col. Rob Pinckard, Sen. McSally, Cadet 1st Lt. Tera Smeltzer, Lt. Col. James Nova, and Cadet Capt. Tristan Obregon. *(Photo: Capt. Gordon Helm, CAP)*

This year's delegation for the Arizona Wing was led by new wing commander Col. Rob Pinckard and also included immediate past Wing Commander Col. Martha Morris, Government Relations Advisor Lt. Col. James Nova, Chief of Staff Maj. Jerad Hoff, Director of Operations Maj. Mark Schadt, Assistant Government Relations Advisor Capt. Gordon Helm and Wing Public Affairs Officer Capt. Margot Myers.



Above: (L-R) Capt. Gordon Helm, Col. Martha Morris, Cadet 2nd Lt. Charity Wampler, and Cadet Capt. Tristan Obregon participated in the briefing with Emilio Navarrete, legislative assistant for Congressman Paul Gosar. (Photo: Capt. Margot Myers, CAP)

Four cadets that were also invited to participate were Cadet Lt. Col. Jacob Little and Cadet 2nd Lt. Charity Wampler of Deer Valley Composite Squadron in Phoenix, Cadet Capt. Tristan Obregon of Yuma Composite Squadron, and Cadet 1st Lt. Tera Smeltzer of Willie Composite Squadron in Chandler.

On February 27, 2020, the second day of visits to Capitol Hill for the Arizona Wing delegation, Cadet Capt. Weiss O'Connor of Deer Valley Composite Squadron joined the group. O'Connor was already in Washington attending the Civic Leadership Academy, which is a week-long National Cadet Special Activity designed for cadets who are interested in politics and careers in public service. O'Connor participated in behind-the-scenes tours and briefings at the Capitol, Supreme Court, State Department, Pentagon, CIA, Arlington National Cemetery, and more – besides the CAP Legislative Day.

Appointments were scheduled in advance with the offices of Arizona's nine members of the House of Representatives and two senators. The team split up into two smaller groups each day in order to cover multiple offices simultaneously. In some offices, the team met with the representatives and senators, while in others, they met with staff members responsible for military affairs. In each office, team members presented a folder of information about CAP, that included a fact sheet about Arizona Wing and detailed information about CAP's fiscal year 2021 budget needs.

"This year, we were asking for \$56.2 million. That is an increase of \$4.4 million over last year's appropriation," said Pinckard. The extra funds will go to purchase replacement aircraft and vehicles along with additional operations and maintenance needs.

Cadets had the opportunity to talk about their CAP involvement including why they joined the program, how long they have been members, and what they have learned through their CAP experiences.

Visiting the members' offices on Capitol Hill on a regular basis reinforces the message of the Civil Air Patrol's role in serving communities and states across the nation. In fiscal year 2019, Arizona Wing conducted 11 search and rescue missions and was credited with two lives saved and 12 finds, aircrews flew 3,521 hours, including 1,224 CAP, AFJROTC and AFROTC orientation flights, and counterdrug missions along the southern border of Arizona were flown. The value of the volunteer hours contributed by the wing's members exceeded \$4 million.

"The two days of meetings with Arizona's nine members of Congress and both senators should prove helpful in continuing support for Arizona Wing and Civil Air Patrol," said Pinckard. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Newly promoted 1st Lt. Rudolph Franklin is administered the oath of office by Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Robert White. (Photo: Maj. Walter Leuci, CAP)

Below: 1st Lt. Rudolph Franklin with cadets, as he prepares to conduct a pre-flight inspection

Louisiana Wing Civil Air Patrol Squadron Recognizes Pilot Member

by Maj Walter Leuci, CAP, Louisiana Wing

NEW ORLEANS – On January 8, 2020, Lt. Col. Robert White, commander of the Billy Mitchell Senior Squadron, recognized 1st Lt. Rudolph Franklin for having completed 40 cadet Orientation flights by a single pilot since October 2019. This is a first for the squadron, as well as Louisiana Wing. At the same time, Franklin was promoted to the grade of 1st Lieutenant.

Franklin said, “The first Cadet Orientation flights I gave began on October 13, 2019, with cadets from the Hammond Composite Squadron. I have since had the opportunity to fly cadets from other composite squadrons around the state and JROTC. Senior members from the



The Fly-By, South

Billy Mitchell Senior Squadron were instrumental in making this possible. Lt. Col. Lester Cambre, Lt. Col. Pat Kerr, Lt. Col. Phil Nuss, Maj. Earl Weiser, and Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Bob White all deserve recognition.”

Right: Franklin explains the principles of aircraft aerodynamics.

Below: Franklin at the aircraft controls prior to takeoff, as cadets smile in expectation.

To have completed this many orientation flights in a short period of time takes the cooperation and commitment of the pilot as well as that of the members of the cadets' squadrons. It is a true team effort to ensure the safety of each flight from beginning to end. This is a time commitment entered into personally by everyone involved, and takes a lot of planning and preparation for a successful outcome.

The pilot, cadets and all the members who helped Franklin achieve this goal are volunteers dedicated to the Louisiana Wing. “None of my flights would have been possible without the support of a Flight Release Officer,” said Franklin. “Lester and Phil supported all my O-Flights and deserve just as much credit.”

The “O” Flights, as CAP members commonly refer to them, give cadets who want to learn how to fly an aircraft the opportunity to do so. In CAP, cadets begin their transition to flying, using a syllabus provided by CAP that takes them from observing and getting a feel for flying, to actual hands-on flying. This is accomplished by taking them through the different procedures, which

involve flight planning, aircraft pre-flight, engine run-up, flight control checks, taxi, takeoff, climb-out, various aerial maneuvers, and finally landing.

Squadron Commander White and other key members of the Billy Mitchell Senior Squadron encourage all squadron members to step up, and be the best they can be. 🇺🇸





Top: Four cadets at a time were able to compete using the simulators . (Photos: 2nd Lt. Jon Rizzo, CAP)

Below: Graphic developed by the squadron and used to promote the competition.

Inaugural Red Flag Aerial Combat Challenge Held in Eloy, Arizona

by Capt. Kevin Rattey, CAP, Arizona Wing

ELOY, Ariz. – On January 11, 2020, the Eloy Composite Squadron 131 in southern Arizona hosted the statewide Red Flag Aerial Combat Challenge at the Eloy Elementary School District (EESD) Aerospace Center.

Eloy Squadron meets at the EESD Aerospace Center that is home to several flight simulation stations that are designed to help CAP members with flight training, including instrument flying. Recent upgrades to the stations now allow for combat simulation, using a variety of planes, including the F-16 and F-35. The center also has dedicated air traffic control stations that are used during pilot training, and also as a teaching tool for students taking the Introduction to the Air Traffic Control course.





Above: (L-R) Arizona Wing South Sector Commander Maj. Ken Smith presents an F-16 model to Alpha Flight winner Cadet Master Sgt. Jonathan Cornell from Willie Composite Squadron.

The competition was modeled after the U.S. Air Force Red Flag exercise, which takes place at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School at Nellis AFB, Nevada. The military Red Flag exercise includes personnel from the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Army, as well as participants from numerous allied nations.

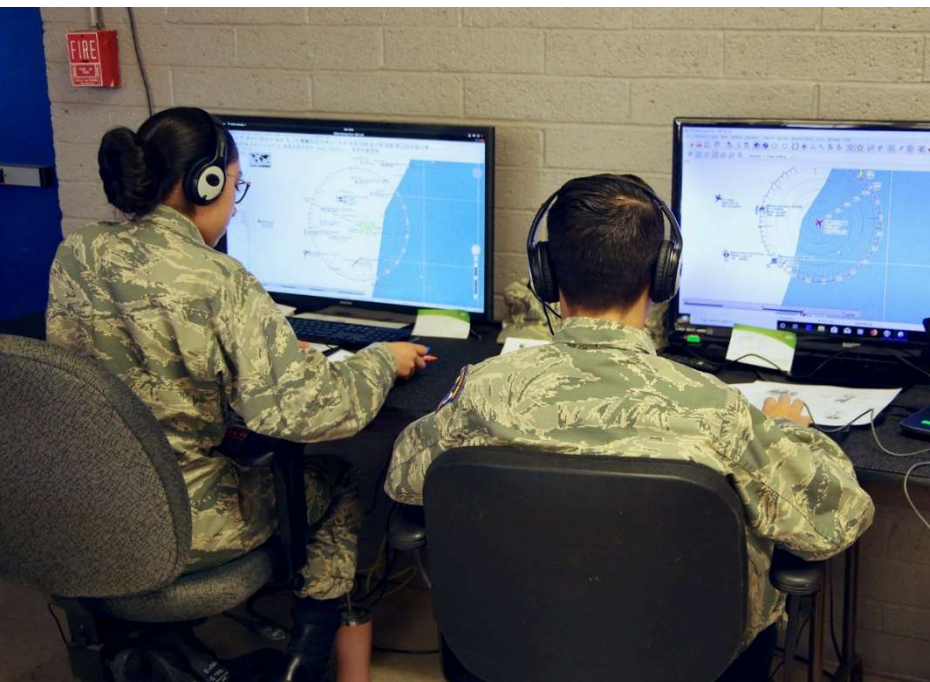
This was the first time for this CAP competition, and 32 cadets from 10 squadrons around the wing competed. The cadets were divided into two groups, Alpha and Bravo flights, and moved through a bracket system to determine a winner for each flight. Four simulators and four air traffic control stations were used for the event.

Eloy Squadron cadets acted as air intercept controllers and guided the “fighter pilots” to their targets. Pilots were tasked with intercepting simulated incoming bombers, protected by fighters, over the coast of south Florida. This meant that cadet pilots had to dodge missiles fired at them from the incoming fighters.



Above: (L-R) Cadet Staff Sgt. Alexander Flores from 388th Composite Squadron was the winner of Bravo flight and received his award from Maj. Ken Smith.

Below: Cadets from Eloy Squadron used the air traffic control stations to guide the cadets flying the simulators



Attendees were provided with a BBQ lunch, and parents were invited to watch the competitors in action, as well as encouraged to take photographs.

The winner of Alpha Flight was Cadet Master Sgt. Jonathan Cornell, from Willie Composite Squadron 304 in Chandler, and the winner of the Bravo Flight was Cadet Staff Sgt. Alexander Flores, from 388th Composite Squadron in Glendale. Each winner received a die-cast model of an F-16, presented by Arizona Wing Southern Sector Commander Maj. Ken Smith. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Cadet Capt. Mark Chappell and Capt. Julielynn Wong, M.D. perform pre-departure safety checks, prior to deploying the sUAS to the earthquake-affected areas of southern Puerto Rico. *(Photo: CAP Public Affairs)*

New Mexico Wing Cadet Participates in Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Mission

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Cadet Capt. Mark K. Chappell of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron was one of several Civil Air Patrol members who assisted in disaster relief efforts following the earthquakes in Puerto Rico that started on December 28, 2019, and continued into 2020.

Civil Air Patrol provided more than 13,000 aerial photographs taken from small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS), more commonly referred to as drones, in support of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

Three two-member sUAS teams and a unit leader deployed on January 9, 2020, following a series of earthquakes and aftershocks that had begun two days earlier. Each team consisted of a CAP sUAS mission pilot and a sUAS technician.

Right: Cadet Capt. Mark Chappell performs a safety check on a sUAS aircraft. (Photos this page: Capt. Julielynn Wong, M.D, CAP).

Below: (L-R) 1st Lt. Emmary Webb, Chappell, and Lt. Col. John Webb discuss the tactical implications of the sUAS on the target for the day.

A second group of seven CAP members arrived in Puerto Rico to staff sUAS operations on January 19, 2020, replacing the original team members, and completed its assignments on January 27, 2020. The mission stood down on January 29, 2020.


Chappell, 20, was one of the six team members operating in Puerto Rico. He was attending a fixed-wing sUAS training program at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, when FEMA requested Civil Air Patrol support for the Puerto Rico disaster relief mission. When Chappell was offered the opportunity to participate on one of the teams being deployed to Puerto Rico, he accepted the mission.

Chappell began flying sUAS in 2015, when he joined a New Mexico Wing remote-control plane competition. "In spring of 2018, I took an introduction to UAS class at Central New Mexico Community College," Chappell said. "From there, I earned my FAA Part 107 commercial drone certificate and worked on completing a collegiate certificate in UAS."

Chappell quickly found a way to put his newfound skills to work. "I started my own business, providing mapping services and ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) to government agencies," he said. He learned about CAP's sUAS program while looking for a course to attend at the annual National Emergency Services Academy. "Since then, I've been developing New Mexico Wing's sUAS program as their director of training for unmanned aerial systems."

Chappell considered it an honor to have been one of the few cadets to deploy on this mission. "The CAP sUAS Program is an invaluable asset for CAP and first responders across the United States. During my deployment, I had the honor of working with FEMA responders from across the United States, CAP members from six different wings, and with command assets at the highest levels of government."

"As the only cadet to deploy with the first team, it was an opportunity for me to take my classroom experiences into the real world to serve my community, state and nation," he added.

Chappell has been a member of CAP and the squadron since October 2013. He is currently the squadron's cadet commander. 

Editor's Note: Capt. Margot Myers, the public information officer for this disaster relief mission, contributed to this report.





Top: Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith (right) administers the oath of office to Col. Rob Pinckard. (Photo: Maj. Rick Yang, CAP)

Pinckard Assumes Command of Arizona Wing

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – On January 4, 2020, Col. Robert C. Pinckard assumed command of Arizona Wing from Col. Martha Morris. Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith presided over the traditional military change of command ceremony, which was held at the Scottsdale Airport Aviation Business Center.

“It’s a great honor for me to have been chosen to lead the Arizona Wing,” Pinckard said. “I’m following in the footsteps of some exceptional wing commanders.”

Approximately 200 Arizona Wing members, their families and invited guests attended the ceremony. Several awards were presented to CAP members, including a Certificate of Commendation for Lifesaving to 2nd Lt. Frank Arvizu, Deer Valley Composite Squadron, for having rescued five people from a vehicle involved in a five-car accident.



Left: Col. Joe Smith (left) observes as Col. Martha Morris and Mrs. Patricia Pinckard place the new rank on Col. Rob Pinckard's uniform. Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Hudson Kilcup (rear) assisted with the ceremony. (Photo: Maj. Rick Yang, CAP)

Pinckard assumes command of a wing that is highly rated and well respected. "This is a great team of top performers," Pinckard said. "I

look forward to working with you to achieve continued success."

Pinckard joined Willie Composite Squadron in Chandler, Arizona, in 2001 and served as the squadron finance officer and cadet programs officer. In 2007, he assumed command of the squadron. Subsequently, he was promoted to group and sector commander positions before becoming the wing chief of staff in January 2016 and vice commander in July 2018.

He is an active incident commander, ground branch director, and ground team leader, with a master rating in emergency services, three additional master ratings, one senior rating, and five technician ratings in a wide variety of CAP specialty tracks.

Right: Newly appointed Arizona Wing Commander Col. Rob Pinckard accepts command from Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith. At rear (hidden by flag) is Cadet 2nd Lt. Alexander Diaz, who served as the flag bearer for the ceremony. (Photo: 1st Lt. Aaron Feller, CAP)

During his CAP career, Pinckard has been credited with more than 100 finds and three saves during Arizona Wing operational missions, and has assisted with the physical rescue and recovery of the victims of multiple air crash and missing persons missions.

Pinckard has organized, conducted and taught at numerous ground and combined air/ground search and rescue and wilderness survival courses throughout Arizona Wing. He has trained and qualified numerous CAP ground team search and rescue and wilderness first aid members, as well as many representatives of Arizona county sheriffs' SAR teams who have participated in Arizona Wing ground team training. Pinckard also has instructed at several Unit Commander Courses, Squadron Leadership Schools, and Corporate Leadership Courses, as well as at Regional Staff College.

By day, Pinckard is a founder, owner and CEO of Allen & Pinckard Industrial Contractors, Inc., a 25-year-old, \$8 million/year, multi-licensed specialty contractor operating in the western United States. Pinckard and his wife Pat reside in San Tan Valley, Arizona, where they breed and train prize-winning Appaloosa horses. 🐾





Top: (L-R) Cadet Airman Ethan Huber, Cadet Basic Wyatt Barnett and Cadet Airman First Class Adam Stafford map a flight trajectory from Riverside Airport. (All photos: 1st Lt. Tamara Shannon, CAP, Oklahoma Wing)

Oklahoma Wing Cadets Learn Cross-country Flight Navigation

by Capt. Brandon Lunsford, Sr, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

JENKS, Okla. – On March 9, 2020, Riverside Flight cadets underwent training for cross-country navigation. The training helps to prepare cadets and other youth for flight planning before any orientation flight or further flight experience. The training took place at Tulsa Technology Center's Riverside Campus.

"The training went very well," said Aerospace Education Officer 1st Lt. Tamara Shannon. "Since November of last year, our unit has logged over 40 cadet orientation flights and many more backseat flights. This training provided them with additional knowledge for future flight planning. They were able to see that there is more to flying than just getting into an airplane and taking off."

ion, April, 2020

Left: Riverside cadets work as a group to map a flight trajectory from Riverside Airport.

Below: Cadet Basic Xavier Harrelson works with his group to map a flight trajectory from Riverside Airport.

"This training was really fun," said Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford. "I love flying and I am glad to see that passion forming in our newer cadets." Then added, "The cadets enjoyed the planning aspect to flight. I was happy to see them engaged in this activity." Lunsford attended Civil Air Patrol's Southwest Region Powered Flight Academy in June 2019, logging 14 total hours toward her private pilot's certificate.

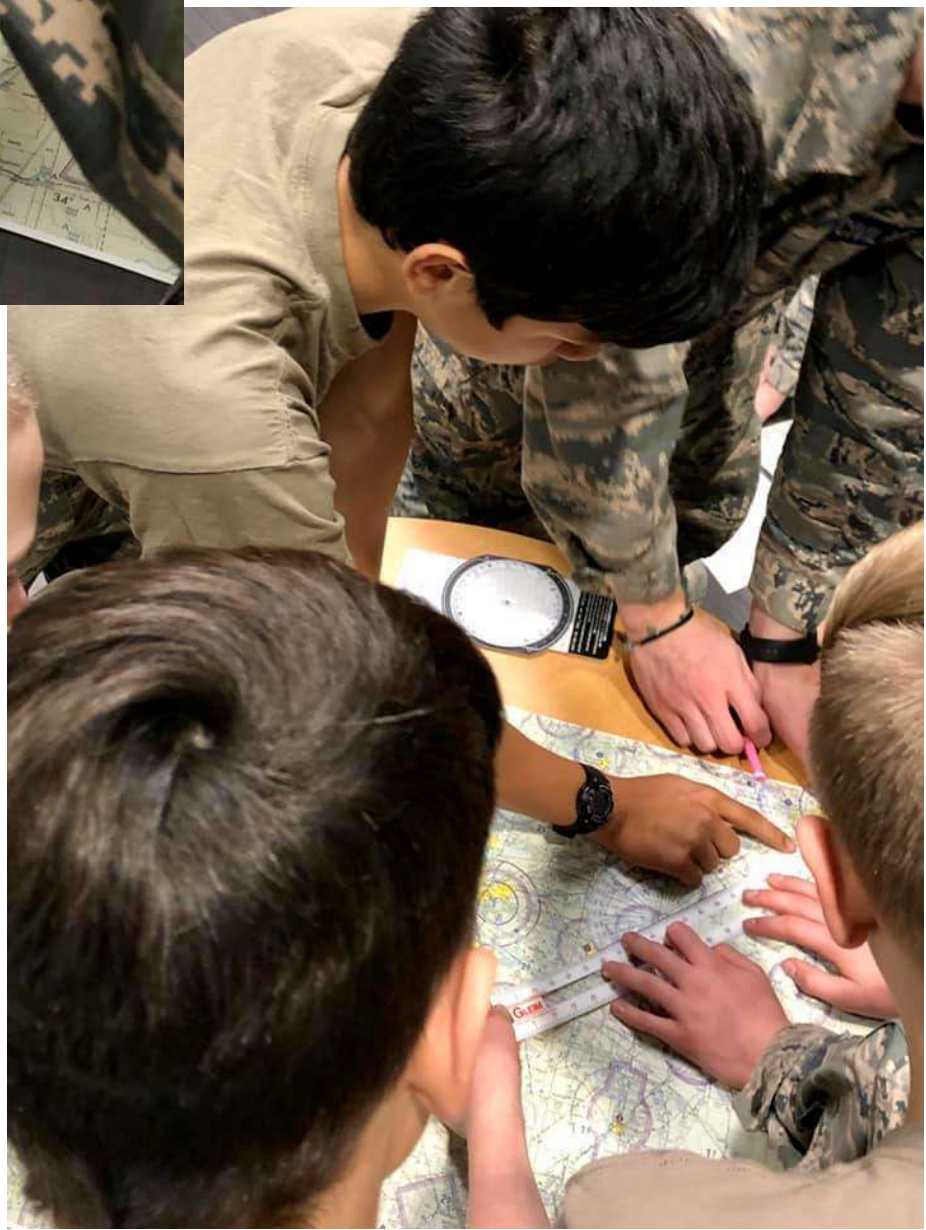
While working to obtain a private pilot certificate, cadets and students will become familiar with airplane



performance, effects of weather, basic visual flight rules (VFR), sectional charts, chart symbols, and aircraft cruise performance. The STEM kit (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) allowed effective hands-on training for cadets to enhance their understanding of flight preparation.

The STEM kit provided by Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) National Headquarters is just one of many available to local units and school systems for training.

CAP's STEM Kit program offers resources for hands-on, inquiry-based learning. The program has been offering a selection of STEM Kits to CAP Unit Aerospace Education Officers and CAP educator members since Jan. 23, 2013, as a means to educate the next-generation STEM workforce. 🇺🇸





Top: The cadets and senior members from the 388th and Deer Valley Composite Squadrons in front of the helicopter that took their Field Training Exercise to the next level. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Frank Arvizu, CAP)

Three Arizona Wing Squadrons Conduct a Training Operation

by Capt. Gordon Helm, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On January 18-19, 2020, cadets and aircrews from 388th Composite Squadron in Glendale and Deer Valley Composite Squadron in Phoenix, directed by an incident command post at Deer Valley Airport, worked together to locate a “missing helicopter” near Lake Roosevelt Lake. Another aircrew from Scottsdale Senior Squadron 314 flew a DAART training mission nearby, as part of the overall operational exercise (OpEx).

The cadets of 388 and Deer Valley Composite Squadrons had been separately developing a field training exercise (FTX) for January 2020. Deer Valley Commander 1st Lt. Mike Ricker and Deputy Commander for Cadets 2nd Lt. Frank Arvizu wanted to give flight crews an opportunity to both practice their search and rescue skills, and coordinate their activities with cadets on the ground. “We wanted to create an event that cadets would talk about because of its novelty,” Ricker said. From those two goals, the multi-squadron OpEx/FTX was born.



Above: At the incident command post at Deer Valley, one of the flight crews prepares for its part of the mission. The crew included (L-R) 1st Lt. Steve Barnes (back to camera), Capt. John Shoemaker, and Maj. Chris Dusard. (Photo: Capt. Gordon Helm, CAP)

Arvizu used his contacts with H5 Helicopters, a sightseeing and aerial filming company based in Scottsdale, Arizona, to provide a helicopter as a target for both SAR aircrews and cadet ground units. Arvizu worked closely with 388's Deputy Commander for Cadets Master Sgt. George Risinger to develop a strategy that used cadets from both squadrons.

Right: 2nd Lt. Frank Arvizu leads the cadets from an activity in the field back to the mission base. (Photo: 1st Lt. Mike Ricker, CAP)

"The plan was to 'hide' the helicopter so that aircrews and cadets would need to work together to locate it, determine 'injuries' for the pilot and passengers, and 'rescue' the survivors," Arvizu said. Some of the cadets were selected to fly with the helicopter to the "crash" area, where they would act as victims.

To make the mission more complex and provide a unique challenge for aircrews, the incident command staff

developed a scenario that used cellphone forensics information. Lt. Col. Vic LaSala, sector commander for northern Arizona and a member of the CAP National Cell Phone Forensics Team, developed the search areas near the northwest end of Roosevelt Lake. Staff quickly realized that communications would be difficult given the surrounding terrain, so a communications component using a high bird aircraft and an FTX ground station, including hand-held radios, was added to the mission.

Following several weeks of planning and coordination, including clearances up through Arizona Wing command, the three-squadron OpEx/FTX weekend arrived. A total of 19 cadets, 12 from Squadron 302 and 7 from the 388th, headed out for the two-day FTX. They were



accompanied by eight senior members from the two squadrons. Aircrews were given their initial briefings the night before, being told that they would receive cellphone-generated search information early on Saturday, and would need to develop their search strategies with Air Operations Branch Director Capt. Russ Miller.

Deer Valley squadron aircrews were flying the optical ball-equipped Cessna 182 aircraft for search operations, along with the recently delivered Cessna 172, which was designated as the communications relay “high bird.” Aircrew members from the 388th flew the Cessna 182 assigned to their squadron. The aircrew from Scottsdale Senior Squadron conducted a separate DAART training mission flying a Cessna 206, on the west side of the Phoenix metropolitan area. With a full incident command and communications staff in place to coordinate these missions at Deer Valley, the stage was set.



Left: An image of the helicopter and cadets in the desert was relayed to the incident command post. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Bob Vallelonga, CAP, the DAART operator onboard the optical-ball equipped Cessna 182)

Early in the morning, with the cadets in place and the target helicopter hidden from ground view, the two 182s entered their search areas. The 172, acting as high bird, was busy relaying messages between the ground, both aircraft, and mission base. Using SPOT to track the aircraft, it quickly became apparent that the target was missed after two passes over it. The search area was quickly refined with “updated cell phone information” from mission base, that is, GPS coordinates of the “missing” helicopter.

Given the location, both aircraft were soon circling the “crash site” with one aircraft taking images and guiding the cadets on the ground, while the other used its optical ball to transmit video via DAART back to mission base. The cadets needed to hike in about a half mile, and aircrews had difficulty finding them to give directions until Arvizu “popped smoke” (set off a smoke grenade). Once spotted, the “rescuers” were soon giving aid to the “victims.”

“When we debriefed the aircrews, every crewmember remarked on how good it was to be able to communicate with the ground and help to direct searchers into the area,” Ricker said. “They also appreciated a new type of search using the information provided by cellphones.”

While the OpEx portion of that Saturday was complete, the cadets still had some work to do, and also a reward. One of the “victims” was littered out to the highway with cadets taking turns carrying the litter. The helicopter then joined the cadets near their campsite and every cadet who participated got a short flight. The cadets conducted a variety of activities throughout the day and evening, had Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) for dinner, and pitched their tents for an overnight camp.

“Once the cadets from both participating squadrons returned home and talked about their experience, the number of volunteers for the next OpEx/FTX increased dramatically,” Arvizu said. “We expect this type of exercise to become increasingly common in the future.”

Ricker said that he was pleased with the outcome, “Three squadrons, coming together to conduct a joint OpEx/FTX, using the latest location detection systems and involving cadets and senior members in an all-encompassing scenario proved to be a refreshing way to practice the three missions of Civil Air Patrol in Arizona Wing.”

Ascension Parish Cadets Win Louisiana Wing Color Guard Competition

by Capt. Ken Best, CAP, Louisiana Wing

GONZALES, La. – On February 15, 2020, Cadets from the Ascension Parish Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol participated in the Louisiana Wing Color Guard Competition in Gonzales. This event consists of physical fitness, academics, uniform preparations, inspections, standard drill, flag etiquette, outdoor posting of the American flag, and indoor posting of the American flag. The Ascension Composite Squadron Color Guard Team placed 1st and will represent Louisiana at the Southwest Region's Competition on March 14, 2020.

The regional competition will be held in Shreveport, where teams from the Southwest Region (SWR) of Civil Air Patrol will compete. The SWR consists of Civil Air Patrol squadrons from the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico Oklahoma and Texas.

The Louisiana Wing competition was held at the Gonzales Baptist Temple. On the following day, in addition to competition activities, the Color Guard Team posted the colors in the church sanctuary prior to the beginning of the Sunday morning service, and retired them at the end of the service. 🇺🇸

Right: The Louisiana Wing team in front of the Total Safety Company in Gonzales, which allowed the use of their flag pole for practicing posting the colors outdoors. Pictured (L-R) are Cadet Master Sgt. Ethan James, Cadet 2nd Lt. Justin Townsend, Cadet Airman Joseph Taylor, and Cadet Senior Airman Gabriel Carter. (Photo: Courtesy of Janelle Townsend)





, 2020

Left: (L-R) Cadet Airman Theodore Williams, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Julian O'Connor, and Cadet Airman 1st Class George Mop prepare for a competition round in the FIRST Tech Challenge. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Dee O'Connor)

Below: Star Wars characters were on hand at the FTC competition and posed with the team (L-R) Cadet Airman Kalikiano Coscia, Cadet Airman 1st Class George Mop, Cadet Airman 1st Class Katelynn Rubrecht, Cadet Senior Airman Joanna Horn, Cadet Capt. Anh-Thu Pham, Cadet Senior Airman Wesley Raymond, Cadet Airman Theodore Williams, and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Julian O'Connor.

Competitive Robotics Team a First for Arizona Wing Composite Squadron

by Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Julian O'Connor, CAP, Arizona Wing

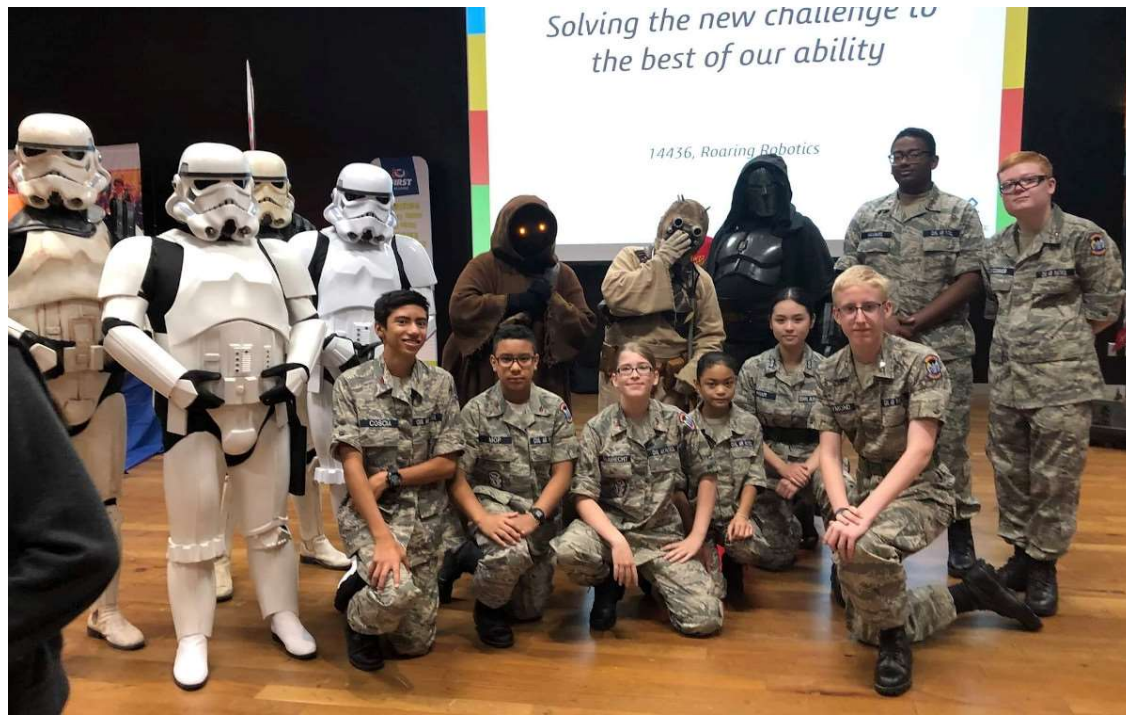
GLENDALE, Ariz. – On February 8, 2020, the 388th Top Dogs Robotics Team from 388th Composite Squadron completed its first-ever participation in the *FIRST Tech Challenge* (FTC) robotics competition. The team began competing in September 2019 and ended its first year of competition at the West Valley Qualifier Round in February 2020.

The 388th is the first squadron in Arizona to start an FTC robotics team. This is a robotics competition open to grades 7-12, where participants build a robot to complete a series of tasks both autonomously and with direct driver control. The robot then competes in a series of matches. Each match involves three other teams.

The goal is to accomplish more tasks than the other teams in a designated time frame. Teams play multiple matches per competition. Additionally, a team is judged on how well it displays the sponsoring organization's core values. FIRST is the acronym for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." The organization's core values include gracious professionalism, teamwork and integrity.

The 388th started its team after a joint robotics program with the Deer Valley Composite Squadron sparked an interest in robotics. "With no cadets ever having competed in FTC, and only two of them having any previous robotics experience, the team struggled," said 2nd Lt. Dee O'Connor, one of the team's coaches. "However, the team ultimately prevailed, taking ninth place in one competition and advancing to the semifinals. The team did not make it past the local level of the competition to the state level, but they did well for a first-year team."

At its peak, the team consisted of nine cadets, one cadet's younger sibling, two adult coaches, one cadet coach and a mentor. The coaches were 2nd Lt. Dee O'Connor, Senior Member Michael Wilmoth and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Julian O'Connor. Lt. Col. James Webb served as team mentor. 🍷





Top: The cadets and senior members of Route 66 Composite Squadron participate in the squadron's search and rescue exercise. (Photo: Capt. Ryan Stanton, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Composite Squadron Conducts Ground Team Training

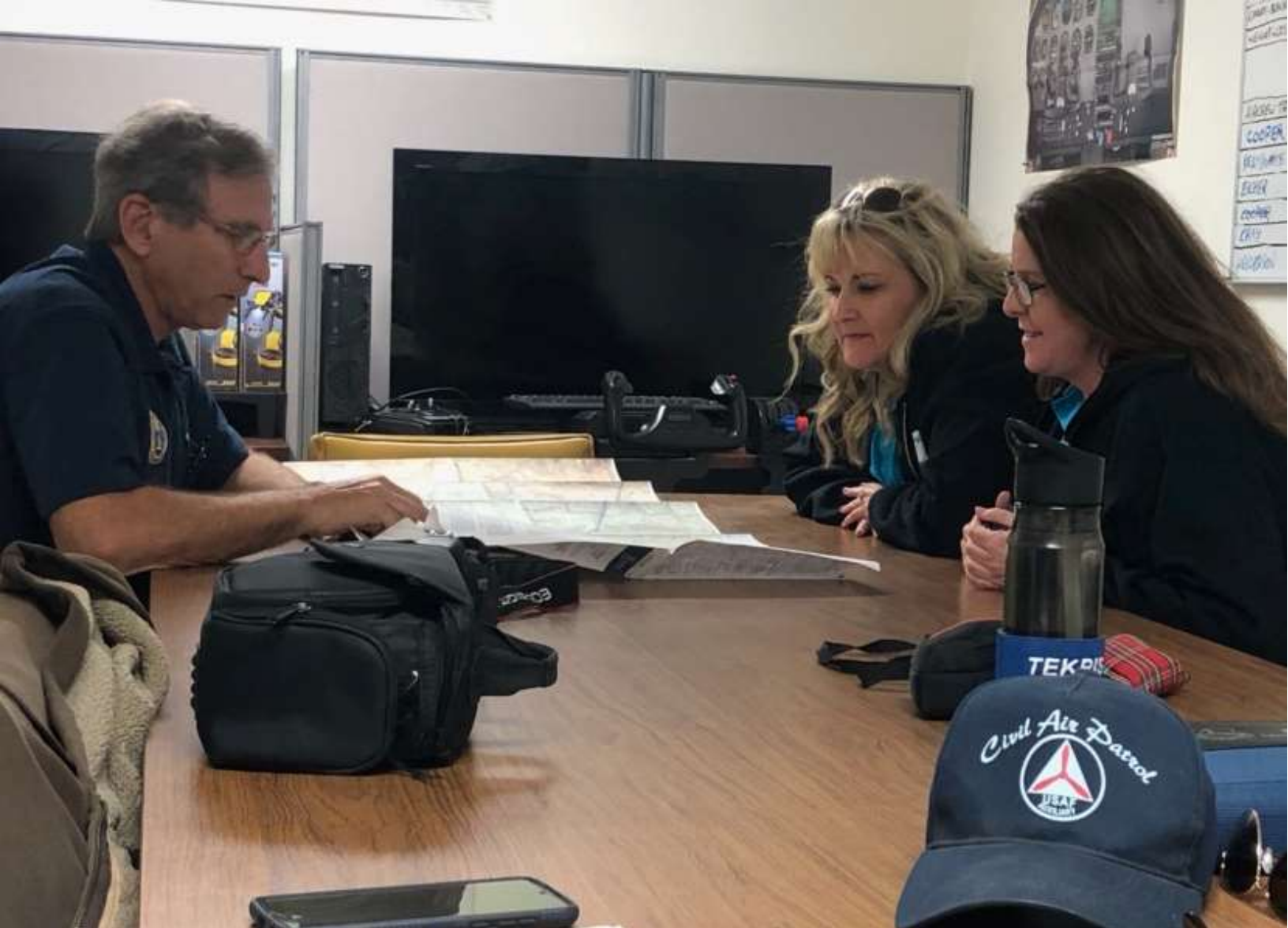
by Capt. Ryan Stanton, CAP, New Mexico Wing

EDGEWOOD, N.M. – During the weekend of February 14-15, 2020, New Mexico Wing's Route 66 Composite Squadron conducted a joint cadet-senior member search and rescue exercise at the Torrance County Park, just south of Edgewood.

The exercise included 12 cadets and five senior members, with three senior members on the ground and two in the air. Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Roger Lenard was the mission pilot for the exercise, and Emergency Services Officer La Vern "Pete" Scherf served as mission observer.

The squadron's Deputy Commander for Cadets Maj. Dennis Craig and Communications Officer 2nd Lt. Lucas O'Dell taught the cadets how to use signal mirrors and communicate by radio. New Mexico Wing Assistant Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Chris Branan, who also serves as advisor to the squadron commander, taught the cadets other methods to attract rescue aircraft, and communications using the phonetic alphabet, as well as whistle commands that are used to locate lost people on a ground team search.

At the conclusion of the exercise, the team enjoyed an old-fashioned campfire with hot dogs and marshmallows. All participants agreed that the operation had been a success. 🍷



Top: (L-R) Maj. Bob Kaye discusses the plan for the teacher orientation flight with H. L. Suverkrup Principal Trish Valentin and teacher Lisa Love during a pre-flight briefing. (Photos: Maj. Ron Marks, CAP)

Taking Teachers to the Sky

by Maj. Ron Marks, CAP, Arizona Wing

YUMA, Ariz. – On February 7, 2020, Principal Trish Valentin and Exceptional Student Services Teacher Lisa Love from Yuma's H. L. Suverkrup Elementary School took their first orientation flights in a Civil Air Patrol airplane. Love is a CAP Aerospace Education Member, as were the two additional teachers from H. L. Suverkrup, Liana Goldsboro and Amanda Peterson, who flew on the same day.

"It helps our kids see what some of their options are for the future," said Valentin. "We're a 'Kids at Hope' school, so we focus a lot on hobbies and careers, and this reveals a multitude of opportunities for them in those areas."

Teacher Love said, "We want to give our students opportunities to dream, to look up and believe that anything is possible, and why shouldn't kids see their principal fly over their school in a plane?"

Maj. Bob Kaye of Yuma Composite Squadron was the pilot for both flights. An active aerospace education officer in the squadron, Kaye shared his interests with the teachers before and after the orientation flights.



Above: Maj. Scotty Haskell works with students in the classroom to explain how to use CAP handheld radios to communicate with their teachers who would be flying over the school in a CAP plane.

Below: Maj. Scotty Haskell (center) coaches the students on using a CAP handheld radio to talk to their teachers as they are flying overhead.

While the teachers were at the airport getting ready to fly, Maj. Scotty Haskell, an experienced CAP communications officer, worked with the students in the classroom, showing them how to use a handheld radio. During the second flight, Kaye circled over the school while Goldsboro and Peterson communicated via CAP radio with their students, who were watching from the ground. Haskell was with the students guiding their use of a handheld radio to speak with the teachers while they circled above the schoolyard.

"Amanda and I had a terrific experience on the flight and learned all about how much goes into planning and actually flying a plane," Goldsboro said.

The Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) helps address the nation's pilot shortage by giving direction to the dreams of young aviation enthusiasts through instruction, training, and scholarship opportunities. CAP prepares these aspiring pilots for the global aerospace demands of the future by sparking an early interest in aviation. The TOP recognizes that teachers are often the best influencers, and engages them with a variety of resource materials such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Kits and the opportunity to fly in a CAP plane. 🇺🇸





Left: Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets Maj. John H. Brennan (back to camera), addresses the squadron’s first-ever Great Start graduating class. (Photo: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Squadron Graduates its First “Great Start” Class

by 1st Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - On January 23, 2020, Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron completed its first-ever Great Start graduation ceremony. The event was the culmination of eight weeks of training, led by the squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets Maj. John H. Brennan.

Cadets enrolled in the Great Start program had been sworn-in by early December 2019, and were working together, as a class, to complete the requirements for their first promotion. The newly graduated cadet airmen included Andrew Gallegos, Abigail Henry, Emery Byers, Joseph

Keleher, and Gabriel Wusciewski. Absent on the date of graduation, but graduating two weeks later, was Cadet Airman Nicholas Mora.

The Great Start program is a training format that involves bringing all new cadets together into one group, and keeping those cadets together until they have mastered the material necessary for beginning leadership and drill. Once the group has accomplished this task, learned CAP’s Cadet Oath, and attended their Wingman character development course, they are eligible to take their first step up – the Curry Achievement, which is also their first promotion in CAP, to the grade of cadet airman. While learning together, the group grows in esprit-de-corps and strengthens in foundations of leadership. When asked how his entrance into the Civil Air Patrol as a new cadet was, Cadet Airman Byers said that the Great Start class, “Was very informative, and I was able to learn a lot through the various teaching techniques.” Then added, “The cadets who taught the course were great.”

Brennan, an active-duty Air Force officer and a former Spaatz cadet, has been actively involved with cadet programs since he joined CAP in January 2006. His experience contributed greatly to the squadron’s graduation of its first Great Start class. Cadet Tech. Sgts. Aiden Jones and Sarah Roth assisted Maj. Brennan as cadet instructors for the class. 🍷



Top Left: (L-R) Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Ethan Daves, Cadet Airman Adam Stafford (background), Cadet Staff Sgt. Jordan Burt, Cadet Airman Ethan Huber and Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Luke Fagg assemble their team's stomp rocket as Capt. Brandon Lunsford, Sr observes. *(Photos: 1st Lt. Tamara Shannon, CAP)*

Top Right: (L-R) Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Huber, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Zachary Sprague, Cadet Staff Sgt. Jack Wills, Cadet Staff Sgt. Alec Million and Cadet Staff Sgt. Aidan Pinkston work as a team to assemble their stomp rocket.

Learning Lifts Off for Oklahoma Wing Cadets

by Capt. Brandon Lunsford, Sr, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

JENKS, Okla. – On January 13, 2020, the Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) Jenks Flight took Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning to new heights. The unit, which was formed in July 2019, has been focusing on hands-on learning. The classroom instruction's subject was Rocket Principles. This block of instruction was taught by Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kade Koster and Cadet Tech. Sgt. Tyler Chouinard, under the mentorship and direction of 1st Lt. Tamara Shannon, the Jenks Flight's aerospace education officer.

"Taking something like acceleration, inertia and thrust, and teaching it around Newton's Laws of Motion was challenging, but I greatly enjoyed it," said Cadet Tech. Sgt. Tyler Chouinard.

"I understood Newton's Laws," said Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Ethan Daves, "but taking that and putting it in terms of an activity such as the stomp rockets really made it easy to understand for our younger cadets."



Left: (L-R) Cadet Senior Airman Kaitlyn Shannon launches her team's stomp rocket as Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kade Koster and Cadet Technical Sgt. Tyler Chouinard observe.

Below: (L-R) Cadet Airman First Class Braden Stafford watches his rocket after launch while his fellow teammates observe and cheer.

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Zachary Sprague had a more personal viewpoint. "I've done stomp rockets before, and they are a lot of fun. For younger cadets, being able to take a complicated subject like Newton's Laws and explain it to their satisfaction, and then let them see those laws in

action – now, that was fun to watch."

"I was not sure how well the cadets would receive the principles of rocketry in this class," said 1st Lt. Tamara Shannon. "It wasn't until the stomp rocket activity that they were able to connect the lesson to the laws of motion. That was wonderful to see."

The Civil Air Patrol provides a wide array of STEM education kits that are not only available to member units, but also educators. Please visit www.capmembers.com/ae for more information on these free activities. 🇺🇸





Top: Participants in the first Drone-X activity sponsored by Deer Valley Composite Squadron included (L-R) 2nd Lt. Bob Vallelonga, Cadet Airman Ryan Webber, 2nd Lt. Brett Seidell, Cadet Staff Sgt. Christabel Reinke, Cadet Airman Bunyan Reinke, Capt. Don Fry, and Maj. Rick Yang. (Photo: Cadet Airman Ryan Webber, taken from an airborne sUAS).

Below: The Drone-X practice area was located on State Trust Land in a remote desert location outside Phoenix. (Photo: Cadet Staff Sgt. Christabel Reinke, taken from an airborne sUAS)

Arizona Wing Squadron Launches First Drone-X Training

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On March 14, 2020, Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 tried something new: hosting a Drone Exercise, or “Drone-X” for Arizona Wing members who are already involved or interested in learning to fly small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS), more commonly known as drones.

Open to senior members and cadets, the exercise offered all participants an opportunity to conduct mock sUAS operations with defined objectives in a realistic mission location. Two cadets and four senior members flew four different drones, practicing their flying and photography skills.

“On our most recent Drone-X, we secured a State Trust Land permit and traveled to a semi-remote desert area to perform sUAS mapping and drone-on-drone target acquisition with a lead/follow exercise,” said 2nd Lt. Brett Seidell, director of sUAS operations for the Phoenix-based squadron.

Cadet Staff Sgt. Christabel Reinke participated in the event. “The Drone-X significantly helped my drone flying skills and gave me an idea of what missions would look like in the future,” she said.

During the exercises, a DAART Operator and DAART User successfully supported the capture and upload of sUAS footage to a secure server. Once all objectives had been met, the rest of the afternoon was spent logging flight time and building pilot skills.

“This Drone-X was a success,” said Seidell, “and we’re looking forward to the next one, once we’re able to resume training.” Seidell recommended the opportunity for both new and experienced members. “If you haven’t been out to one, join us. To those who have flown with us before, we look forward to having you out again.”

Anyone from Arizona Wing may participate in future exercises, but the number of personnel for each Drone-X is limited. Announcements of future Drone-X activities and information on how to sign up to participate will be posted on the Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 Facebook page. 📺





Top: (L-R) 1st Lt. Rudolph Franklin receives his Yeager Award Certificate from Lt. Col. Robert White. (Photo: Maj. Walt Leuci, CAP)

Louisiana Wing Squadron Members Receive Awards and Promotions

by Maj. Walter Leuci, CAP, Louisiana Wing

NEW ORLEANS – On January 8, 2020, Billy Mitchell Senior Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Robert White presented the Chuck Yeager award to twenty members of his squadron. The recipients earned this award by completing an extensive study and testing scenario of aviation history, ranging from the Wright Brothers, to Rocketry, to Outer Space, and the Solar System. The members were presented with a certificate of achievement and ribbon, which may be worn on the service uniform. The award is named after Brig. Gen. Charles “Chuck” Yeager, a record-setting Air Force test pilot and WWII fighter pilot ace.

Along with the presentation of the Yeager awards, Mission Pilot Rudolph Franklin was promoted to First Lieutenant.

White also recognized Franklin for having completed 35 Cadet Orientation rides since December 7, 2019. This performance by a single pilot is a milestone for both the Squadron and Louisiana Wing, and reflects Franklin’s dedication to the CAP mission. White thanked Franklin, calling it, “A job well done.”

The occasion was a moment of reflection upon the squadron as a whole, as well as Lt. Col. Robert White’s leadership. The twenty members receiving the Yeager Award, promotion and recognition represent 74% of the total squadron membership.

The Billy Mitchell Senior Squadron is named after William Lendrum Mitchell, who was a U.S. Army general and is regarded as the father of the United States Air Force. During the First World War, Mitchell served with distinction in France, where he reached the top command position of American air combat units. After the war, he became a vigorous proponent of air power, at a time when military strategy concentrated on naval and ground units as the deciding factor in warfare. To prove his point, Mitchell demonstrated the value of aerial bombing against capital ships by sinking a captured German battleship when he disobeyed orders and used 1,000 lb. bombs instead of 500 lb. as directed. Although this was viewed as insubordination, it also proved that the value of air power could not be dismissed. Mitchell’s ideas were prophetic, as in World War II, naval engagements in the Pacific were dominated by air power. 🍷



Top: (Left) Former Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron Commander Maj. Lloyd J. Voights and (Right) Central New Mexico Group Commander Lt. Col. Michael E. Eckert prepare to place new grade insignia on Cadet Maj. Mark Chappell. (Photos: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP)

New Mexico Wing's Chappell Promoted to Cadet Major

by 1st Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On March 5, 2020, Mark K. Chappell of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron was promoted to the grade of cadet major, becoming the first cadet in the squadron to achieve that grade since the squadron was chartered in July 2005.

Chappell's promotion was one of several celebrations that evening, which included the citizenship of Cadet Staff Sgt. Hussein Al-Ithawi, who had been naturalized earlier in the day. Among the other honors, Cadet Staff Sgt. Trevor Anderson received the Good Citizen Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Cadet Sponsor Members Doug and Robin Jones

received their Certificates of Completion of Level I of CAP's professional development program, and three other cadets were promoted: Christian Cumbow to cadet airman, Jessamine Wignall to cadet staff sergeant, and Morgan Raney to cadet senior master sergeant. The highlight of the evening, however, was Chappell's promotion, and former Squadron Commander Maj. Lloyd J. Voights, and Central New Mexico Group Commander Lt. Col. Michel E. Eckert showed up to place on Chappell's the new shoulder board rank insignia.

Chappell has been a member of CAP and the squadron since September 10, 2013. Almost six years to the day, on September 12, 2019, he earned CAP's Amelia Earhart Award, which carries with it promotion to cadet captain. As he rose through the ranks, he has held a number of positions while also achieving his personal goals. He currently serves as New Mexico Wing director of training for small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) – reporting directly to Wing Director of Emergency Services Lt. Col. John P. Grassham – even though Chappell is a cadet. He actively participates in training cadets and senior members on the concept of sUAS, commonly called drones, and has encouraged many members to participate in drone activities, both in and out of Civil Air Patrol.

In early January 2020, Chappell joined a team of drone flight specialists, and represented CAP in Puerto Rico as FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and other agencies worked together to assess the damage inflicted by the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that occurred there on January 7, 2020.

Chappell's awards include CAP's Meritorious Service Award, in recognition of his many contributions in and out of CAP. His promotion to cadet major marks the pinnacle of his cadet career, since Chappell plans to transition to senior membership and the grade of technical flight officer. Upon his 21st birthday, he will be eligible for promotion to first lieutenant. 🇺🇸

Below: (L-R) Cadet Sponsor Members Robin and Doug Jones receive their Certificates of Completion of Level I of CAP's professional development program.





Top: (L-R) Cadet Tech Sgt. Justin Obregon, Col. Rob Pinckard, Cadet 2nd Lt. Kenneth Burkart, Maj. Stu Smith, and 2nd Lt. Albert Ustaszewski participated in the change of command ceremony. (Photos: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Elainea Franklin, CAP)

New Commander for Arizona Wing's Yuma Composite Squadron

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

YUMA, Ariz. – On March 4, 2020, 2nd Lt. Albert Ustaszewski assumed command of Yuma Composite Squadron 508. He succeeds Maj. Stu Smith, who served for four years as the squadron commander. Arizona Wing Commander Col. Rob Pinckard presided over the change of command ceremony.

Smith thanked the team, families, and sponsors for achieving the vision and intent of his tour of duty, and also thanked several members who had gone above and beyond in their service to the squadron and CAP.



Above: New Yuma Squadron Commander 2nd Lt. Albert Ustaszewski addressed squadron members and invited guests after the change of command ceremony. At left is Cadet Tech. Sgt. Justin Obregon.

From 1993 to 1996, Ustaszewski was a CAP cadet member in Pennsylvania Wing's Squadron 811 in Reading. He then served on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1996 to 2004, where he was an aircraft airframe mechanic performing nondestructive testing. After the Marines, he worked in nondestructive testing on the civilian side in various industries. At the same time, he was also completing a bachelor's degree in operational management and later, a master's degree in information management, both from Arizona State University. He now works in in-service engineering support for the AV8B Harrier flight simulator in Yuma.

Ustaszewski returned to CAP in October 2018, along with his son who joined the cadet program. Prior to assuming command, he was the squadron's deputy commander for seniors. As the new commander, he said to be committed to continue leading Composite Squadron 508 on the path to success, by expanding the squadron's role in ground team and sUAS missions.

After the change of command ceremony, Pinckard announced Smith's appointment as the new group commander of the wing's west sector, which includes the 388th (Glendale), Deer Valley, London Bridge, Mohave Valley and Yuma composite squadrons. Smith said, "I hope to inspire the squadron commanders in the group to help sister units attain their goals and missions to achieve the west sector vision of being the best in the west!" 🍷



Top: (L-R) TLC Instructor 1st Lt. David Barbee explains to senior members the critical aspects of cadet retention and recruiting program. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Eric Holtzclaw)

Oklahoma Wing Conducts a Training Leaders of Cadets Course

by 2nd Lt. Eric Holtzclaw, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

JENKS, Okla. – On January 25, 2020, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members from units around the state met in Jenks to attend the Oklahoma Wing presentation of Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC). This is the premiere training venue for cadet program officers to learn how to better mentor cadets and be more effective managers of cadet squadrons. The course is part of a 3-course program and a component of the Cadet Program Officers Specialty Track. All adult members are encouraged to receive this training so as to gain a better understanding of the cadet program and how to retain and recruit youth.

The 20 members in attendance learned to articulate the cadet program vision, which includes referencing the key traits of cadet life, the program elements, and the outcomes each produces, as well as an explanation of the cadet promotion process.

Lecture, discussion and practical exercises included explaining the roles and responsibilities of cadet program officers serving at the squadron level, with special emphasis on leadership dynamics. Members learned that the adult's role changes when the cadet staff's readiness changes. Among other subjects, attendees learned the operating principles for the squadron-level

cadet program, including Cadet Great Start, weekly meetings, cadet activities, and using the Quality Cadet Unit Award as a self-assessment and managerial tool.

Enid Composite Squadron's 1st Lt. Doug Griffith said that the course was beneficial on highlighting the need in composite squadrons to integrate senior members and cadets in its activities, and to make it enjoyable for both cadets and senior members. Griffith, who has risen through the ranks as a cadet, now serves as an officer in the program.

"We need to meld cadets and senior members in emergency services and flying programs, and use it as a squadron recruiting and retention tool," Griffith said. "It is vital to recruiting to get the whole unit involved. I have seen units fail and lose members by not instilling this principle," he added.

Assistant Instructor 1st Lt. David Barbee said, "This class is critical for building a foundation for adult leaders to get involved in the cadet program. I was highly encouraged by class participation and the willingness of class members to get involved in the cadet program."

Course Director Maj. Tina Nazarian, a member of Broken Arrow Composite Squadron, said that she was happy to see how many squadrons from around the state had participated in the training.

"I felt the seven instructors involved did an excellent job at presenting the material. The interaction and feedback from the attendees, sharing their experiences, benefited the entire class," said Nazarian.

Oklahoma Wing encourages unit commanders to send adult members to TLC training (units with cadets are required to have at least two TLC graduates on their roster). Oklahoma Wing provides the course at least once yearly. 🍷

Below: (L-R) S.M. Mike Williams, Capt. Benny Davis, Lt. Col. Scott McCarty, Capt. Robert Platner, 2d Lt. Ted Chapman and 1st Lt. Doug Griffith enjoy discussing options during one of the many practical scenarios during the TLC course.





Top: Cadet Airman Josh Bolen is the first cadet in Arizona Wing to complete the Form 5U check ride. (Photos: Senior Member Dale Bolen, CAP)

Bolen is First Arizona Wing Cadet to Pass Form 5U ‘Check Ride’

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On February 27, 2020, Cadet Airman Josh Bolen of Deer Valley Composite Squadron in Phoenix became the first cadet in Arizona Wing to pass the Form 5U check ride. This is similar to the process for Civil Air Patrol pilots who complete the Form 5 check ride for single-engine airplanes. It is a comprehensive flight evaluation, including preflight preparation, knowledge of applicable FAA and CAP regulations, ground operations, and flight maneuvers.

Bolen joined CAP in November 2019 along with his grandfather, Senior Member Dale Bolen. “After speaking with his cousin in Ohio who had just ranked up in ROTC, Josh joined November

4, 2019, and, after seeing what CAP had to offer, and being retired and bored, I joined two days later,” said Senior Member Bolen.

Cadet Bolen started flying fixed wing remote-control (RC) aircraft when he was about five years old. He and his grandfather have been members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics and the Arizona Model Pilots Society flying club for about eight years.

“I personally like the fact that drones are versatile and can be used for multiple purposes,” Cadet Bolen said. “I also like that drones are RC-operated and since I love flying RCs, I thought I would check it out and that’s when I got hooked. It was so fun learning all the different patterns you fly and how to fly the drones themselves.”

The Deer Valley squadron’s director of sUAS operations said Cadet Bolen’s progress in the sUAS program has been impressive. “Josh’s background in RC is serving him well as he transitions into our drone program,” said 2nd Lt. Brett Seidell. “He picked up flying sUAS very quickly, and was already making suggestions on how to improve our checklists on day one.”

In addition to his involvement in the sUAS program, Cadet Bolen says he find a lot of what he is learning as a cadet to be valuable. “Such as the core values,” he said. “Another thing I like about CAP is all the different scholarships and other opportunities such as getting your private pilot’s license and getting to fly CAP planes.” Those are among Cadet Bolen’s future goals.

Senior Member Bolen has been responsible for raising his grandson from the day he was born. “Joshua has ADHD and is on the autism spectrum,” S. M. Bolen said. “He is very high functioning and does not allow anything to hold him back. This hobby has been a great gift that gets him out of the house and into the world.

“He seems to have a natural talent for flight and both his skills and knowledge have increased with the training he receives in CAP. I see him going far in the sUAS program,” Senior Member Bolen said. 🍷

Below: Southwest Region Director of sUAS Operations Capt. Don Fry was on-hand for Cadet Josh Bolen’s Form 5U check ride.





Top: (L-R) New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters presents Civil Air Patrol's Amelia Earhart Award Certificate to Cadet Capt. John Fox of Falcon Composite Squadron. (Photos: Master Sgt Jeffrey Barlow, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Squadron Hosts Awards Night

by Capt. John Keel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

RIO RANCHO, N.M. – On January 30, 2020, Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron held an awards ceremony, during which New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters presented two national association awards and one milestone award to Falcon Squadron cadets.



Above: As Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Keith Dirsra looks on, Col. Peters presents Cadet Senior Airman Johnny Tran with the Air Force Sergeants' Association award for Outstanding Squadron First Year Cadet.

Cadet Senior Airman Johnny Tran received the Air Force Association award for Outstanding Squadron First Year Cadet. This award recognized the dedication Cadet Tran has shown in his first year in Civil Air Patrol, such as attending summer encampment in his third month, as well as numerous other activities.

The Air Force Sergeants' Association Award for Outstanding Squadron Cadet NCO was presented to Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Moriah Marshall. This award recognizes the leadership and outstanding dedication that Cadet Marshall has shown in 2019 as the Falcon Squadron cadet first sergeant.

The highlight of the awards ceremony was the presentation of Civil Air Patrol's Amelia Earhart Award to Cadet Capt. John G. Fox, Falcon Composite Squadron's cadet commander. This milestone is one of the highest achievements in the cadet program and carries with it promotion to cadet captain. The Earhart Award is not easy to earn and very few – only three percent of all cadets – reach this milestone.

According to the Earhart Award fact sheet, "The Earhart Award marks completion of Phase III of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. Further, Earhart Award cadets must have passed comprehensive examinations on leadership and aerospace topics. After earning the Earhart Award, only Phase IV of the Cadet Program, and the prestigious Spaatz Award Examination remains for the young person to conquer as a CAP cadet."

To conclude the events of the evening, Col. Peters shared personal stories of success within CAP and took questions from the cadets. 🍷

Right: The CyberPatriot team from 388th Composite Squadron included (L-R) Cadet Senior Airman Joanna Horn, Cadet Airman 1st Class George Mop, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Julian O'Connor, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Johnathon Wilmoth. (Photo: Master Sgt. George Risinger)

Arizona Wing CyberPatriot Team Wins Second Place Award in Semi-finals

by 2nd Lt. Dee O'Connor, CAP, Arizona Wing

GLENDALE, Ariz. – On January 25, 2020, a team of cadets from 388th Composite Squadron concluded its competition in the twelfth season of CyberPatriot, the Air Force Association's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

This was the first year for 388th Composite Squadron to participate in the CyberPatriot Competition. The team was led by Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Johnathon Wilmoth and included three additional members, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Julian O'Connor, Cadet Senior Airman Joanna Horn, and Cadet Airman 1st Class George Mop. The team's coach was Master Sgt. George Risinger, the squadron's deputy commander for cadets.

The 388th Composite Squadron team earned a second-place award in the platinum tier in the CyberPatriot XII state round held in December 2019, and a spot in the semifinal round held during January 24-25, 2020. "The team demonstrated teamwork, critical thinking, and technical skills needed for a successful career in cybersecurity," Risinger said.

The team finished 63rd out of approximately 90 All Service Division teams in the semifinal competition in January.

"The team worked hard prior to the competition, and all that work paid off," Risinger said. "I am proud of them all. I expect that we'll have two teams next year, one led by Cadet Wilmoth and another one led by Cadet O'Connor. With what they did this year, many cadets will want to participate next year."

Established by AFA in 2009, CyberPatriot is designed to educate and motivate students toward careers in cybersecurity and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future.

CyberPatriot's core program – the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition – challenges teams of students across the United States, Canada, and other schools abroad, to find and resolve cybersecurity vulnerabilities in simulated environments.

From 6,760 teams registered for the competition season, the CyberPatriot field is divided into three divisions – the Open Division for public, private, and home school teams; the All Service Division for JROTC, Civil Air Patrol, and Naval Sea Cadet Corps teams; and the Middle School Division for middle school-aged students. Based on the results of two preliminary rounds, CyberPatriot XII high school teams were categorized within their divisions as Platinum, Gold, or Silver Tier teams, with Platinum Tier teams representing the highest scoring teams. 📺





Top: (L-R) New Mexico Wing commander Col. Annette Peters presents Clovis High Plains Composite Squadron Commander Capt. James W. Netcher the CAP's Grover Loening Award Certificate. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

New Mexico Wing's Netcher Earns the Grover Loening Award

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On January 11, 2020, Capt. James W. Netcher, commander of the Clovis High Plains Composite Squadron, was presented the Civil Air Patrol's Grover Loening Award Certificate at the quarterly Wing Commanders Call and Staff Meeting. New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters presented the award.

The Grover Loening Award represents completion of Level III of CAP's five-level professional development program for its adult members. To earn the award, members must complete Level II of the professional development program, serve in a command or staff position for one year, attain the Senior rating in any CAP specialty track, attend two wing, region or national conferences as a senior member, complete Civil Air Patrol's Corporate Learning Course (CLC) and earn CAP's Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager Award. Members who successfully complete Level III are eligible for promotion to captain after 30 months' time-in-grade as either a first lieutenant, senior flight officer, or combination thereof.

Netcher has been a CAP member since December 2014. His previous positions in the squadron have included testing officer and transportation officer. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R, in frame) Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Edgar Reyes, Cadet Staff Sgt. Jordan Burt, Cadet Senior Airman Jubilee Kuerbitz, Cadet Staff Sgt. Chloe Shannon, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Ethan Daves and fellow color guard teammates end the night's training with a team chant. (Photos: 1st Lt. Tamara Shannon, CAP, Oklahoma Wing)

Oklahoma Wing Cadets Train to Honor Tradition

by Capt. Brandon Lunsford, Sr, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

JENKS, Okla. – On March 12, 2020, Riverside Flight cadets took their first step towards joining the unit's color guard team. The training, which took place at Tulsa Technology Center's Riverside Campus, focuses on paying tribute to our nation's colors and the hard work and loyalty of all service members. The initial training began with physical conditioning and team building exercises.



Above: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Edgar Reyes (right) prepares to drill cadets during color guard training at Tulsa Technology Center's Riverside Campus.

"During ceremonies, we need to be on our game at all times," said Staff Sergeant Daniel Golden, one of the unit's leadership officers. "You never know what curve balls will be thrown at us," Golden added. "We can practice for hours before a ceremony and then the venue might change something. It's up to us to adapt as we pay the utmost respect to those individuals that we are honoring by pulling off that ceremony with precision."

Cadets that are members of a color guard play an important role in paying respect to both those who currently serve and those who have served in our Armed Forces.

"Being a part of the color guard helps you to become an effective leader," said Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford. "Learning to communicate verbally and nonverbally is a very valuable skill. I encourage all cadets to experience color guard training."

The unit's color guard team has rallied around the sixth line of the sentinel's creed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, that reads, "My standard will remain perfection." The young members who train to serve on the color guard learn – through striving for personal perfection – the true meaning of Duty, Honor and Respect. This shapes each one to be an individual whose character and actions are fashioned to reflect the honor that the colors deserve. 🇺🇸

Right: Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox prepares for a virtual squadron meeting from her home. (Photo: Courtesy of Ms. Juana Fox)

New Mexico Wing Squadron Holds Virtual Meetings to Fight COVID-19 Virus

by Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron Public Affairs, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - On March 19, 2020, Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron faced the challenges presented by the COVID-19 Coronavirus by holding its first virtual meeting.

Working in conjunction with the National Civil Air Patrol directive to practice social distancing, which included suspending in-person meetings until at least May 11, 2020, Spirit Squadron took swift and decisive action and, within a week, chose a virtual meeting app, organized and trained all squadron members on its use, and successfully accomplished its first virtual reality weekly squadron meeting.

In researching various apps to use for this concept of virtual CAP meetings, Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox chose an audio/video program that met her needs: it was free, user-friendly and easy to teach. Fox had from Saturday, March 14, until the following Thursday to teach the 32 squadron members how to use the app in order to have an effective meeting.

As one of the guest speakers for the squadron's first virtual meeting, New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters provided words of encouragement during this time of the COVID-19 crisis. Assistant Wing Director for Safety Lt. Col. Douglas Weitzel also gave a brief update on the virus. Other guests included Central Group Commander Lt. Col. Michael Eckert and New Mexico Wing Director of Cadet Programs Lt. Col. Andrew Selph, who were both interested in the technology. "Tonight was an outstanding representation of organizing and managing a weekly meeting," said Eckert. "Senior members and cadet instructors had their own classrooms and time slots for training, the same as if it were a regular meeting night." He went on to add that senior member and cadet feedback was very positive.

Peters noted that the movement between virtual classrooms was interesting. Whenever Fox needed information from another virtual classroom, she would "send" a senior member to retrieve that information, and then that member would return with the information requested. "It felt like the members were actually running down the hall and then coming back," said Peters. "Almost as if they were really in their squadron headquarters, going from room to room."

Advisor to the Commander Lt. Col. Beverly A. Vito was a dial-in participant, and did not have the privilege of seeing all that was happening on line. "I really felt like I was actually there with everyone," said Vito, who expressed how easy it was for all members to access the meeting with or without a computer.

The first virtual meeting included 26 squadron members and four guest members, and ran for two and a half hours. Fox praised squadron members for refusing to allow COVID-19 to interfere with their weekly meetings. "The virus has worked hard to change how our lives look and play, but it was not able to take the squadron down," said Fox. 🍷



A Message from the SWR Chaplain

Walking my local grocery store and looking at the bare shelves brought back memories of my childhood. The grocery store always was bare in the winter, because fresh fruit and vegetables were not available. Apples, grapefruit, and oranges were our winter fruits, and onions and potatoes were our winter staples, along with canned or frozen vegetables. The life we lead in the United States is one of abundance. A world economy has given us access to much more, there is more than enough to go around, and we tend to take it for granted. Our need to have more than our share, or what we can use, is a need to fill a void. We are being given an opportunity to provide a different kind of service to our community, state and nation when social distancing has been mandated.

How do we find ways to give our members hope for the future? The CDC and DoD have issued guidelines (and CAP has now mandated) that we suspend activities until May 11 and perhaps even beyond that. How do we mentor our leaders and counsel them in the days, weeks, maybe months ahead? How do we manifest the servant leadership our cadets learn about in their *Learn to Lead* materials?

- Instead of emails, texts and tweets, maybe an old-fashioned telephone call would be in order. Stay in touch with your commander and leadership. Use the “call down” list to check on everyone, on a regular basis.
- Make your conversations intentional, honest and factual. If you don’t know the answer, don’t make it up. Find out and inform.
- For your cadets who need character development, the April character development lesson on “Friendship” is available. Have a virtual audio/visual meeting to facilitate the presentation. It may be a bit chaotic, but the cadets will respond. Some wings are doing this wing-wide.
- Use the risk assessment tool sent out from national. This may be moot at this point due to the current DoD mandate but, just for your own safety, think about it when leaving your home – before you do. It is a good habit.
- Many of us are in the age category of over 60, and so we are at a higher risk to having complications should we contract COVID-19. Do not take unnecessary risks. Ours is a volunteer organization. We are not mandated to respond, attend, or be put at risk. CAP talks about being safe... make sure to take all measures to ensure your safety.
- Listen to your local authorities. Their job is to try and keep the entire community safe.
- Scripture tells us to not be afraid. It doesn’t mean that we are not; the unknown is always hard to deal with. For many, this is the first major event of this kind in our lifetime. Others may be in denial; you might be as well. Acknowledge what are your fears, and then make plans to mitigate them.
- Use this time for introspection and to listen to that inner voice that is leading you. In football, the other team will often call a time-out because they want to halt the momentum. What are we needing to see during this time-out? I’ve cleared out several closets and junk drawers.
- Please know that you can call me at any time (Home: 972-938-1746, and Cell: 214-336-1797). I may not have answers, but I trust in the goodness and kindness of us all, and believe that we can use this for good. I believe in a loving God. Our job as chaplains is to make the holy visible by our service in CAP. It is not my job to save you or convince you of what you must believe. I am here to listen to you.
- If you or any one of your family gets sick, let us know so that the chaplain corps can pray for you; this is the only way we will know.
- My prayer for this day is that goodness will come from it, that we will be wiser because of it, and that our leadership will make wise decisions. Please pray for our communities, states and nations across the world.

Ch. (Lt. Col.) Nancy Smalley, Southwest Region Chaplain

Guest Editorial

The COVID-19 Coronavirus: This Generation's Finest Hour

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Every generation or so, a cataclysmic event comes along that plunges the population into the depths of despair, and yet this country, having been subjected to these trials, emerges far stronger for having survived them. The Great Depression, World War II and 9/11 all come to mind, as examples of when we pulled together to conquer a seemingly unconquerable foe. Now we are at war with an invisible enemy: the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

Like the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, the virus struck without warning. We first heard about it in mid-January 2020, as a virus that had originated in Wuhan, China. No one ever thought that the virus would make landfall on our shores, but over the past two months, increasingly more cases have been reported, not only in the United States, but in Italy, South Korea, Africa, and North and South America. By the beginning of March, the virus had affected 114 countries, and by March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization had declared the Coronavirus a global pandemic. And just like that, the whole world was plunged into chaos.

The effects of this pandemic have been devastating. Many countries are on lockdown, with residents being told not to leave home unless absolutely necessary; panic-buying and hoarding of essential supplies, such as toilet paper, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes, has become commonplace; people are being asked that, if they do go out in public, not to congregate in groups of more than five, and are also being asked to observe social distancing – maintaining a distance of at least six feet from others at all times – in hopes of not contracting or spreading the virus. Businesses have closed (with the exception of those deemed essential by each governor), employees have been furloughed, laid off or terminated, and some households are wondering how they will meet expenses for the duration of this crisis. To the casual observer, the situation seems hopeless.

And yet, we have emerged victorious from hopeless situations before. The Greatest Generation, which came of age during the Great Depression, was forged in the crucible of self-sacrifice – fuel and tire rationing, paper and scrap metal drives, and War Bond sales – so that when America was plunged into World War II, they were trained to do more with less. When the war ended in 1945, it launched one of the greatest postwar economic booms in history. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, were meant to cow the country into submission to the terrorists' demands, but instead, we summoned the resolve to regroup and rebuild, and for a brief time we all came together as a country; a new spirit of patriotism flooded the land. As far as COVID-19 is concerned, President Trump just signed an emergency relief bill that will help sustain middle-income families financially for the next four months – by which time, with any luck, the crisis will have passed. CAP is adapting, as well. Virtual meetings are being held, training deadlines are being extended and tabletop exercises are being offered in place of actual search and rescue exercises. Civil Air Patrol's adaptability has been amazing.

In researching this column, I was reminded of British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill's "finest hour" speech, and how he used that speech to rally Great Britain out of desolation and despair. This quote was not part of the speech that he delivered, but it resonates with those who embrace the volunteer spirit of Civil Air Patrol. CAP members have been figuratively tapped on the shoulder to do something special or unique. Let us be prepared and qualified for the work that will make this our finest hour. 🇺🇸



"... To every man there comes... that special moment when he will be figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a special thing unique to him... What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for that work which could have been his finest hour."

~ Winston Churchill



Top: An FA-18 Hornet, formerly flown as part of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron, is the centerpiece of the museum's collection. (Photo: Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP)

Guest Editorial

On the Road with Arizona Wing's "Dr. Bob" in Chino, California

by Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP, Arizona Wing

CHINO, Calif. – Have you ever heard of the call signs "Disco," "Big Eye," or "College Eye"? The "Disco" one is familiar with the E-3B Airborne Warning and Control (AWACS) aircraft around the world, hosted by the U.S. Air Force's 552nd AWACs Wing out of Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.



Above: In 1974, then-Sergeant Bob Ditch was a crewmember on this EC-121 Constellation, now on display at the Yanks Air Museum. (Photo: Courtesy of James Noriega, Yanks Air Museum)

But when coupled with “Big Eye” or “College Eye” you are talking about combat task forces of unique aircraft that existed for almost 10 years during the Vietnam War (1965-1974). Eventually working out of multiple bases throughout Vietnam and Thailand, the members of the “Big Eye” and later “College Eye” Task Forces evolved to using the call sign “Disco” when vectoring in Air Force and Navy F-4 Phantoms to chase off or “kill” Russian MiG fighters over North Vietnam.

To make such a mission work, the Air Force used the venerable EC-121 Constellation, the three-tailed, four-piston-engine plane affectionately known as *Connie*. The aircraft was introduced into service in the U.S. Army Air Force in January 1943 as the C-69, a high-speed, pressurized (first in the world) transport aircraft capable of carrying 42 troops. There were 22 completed before the end of World War II.

Most of these became airliners and both Trans World and Eastern Airlines put them to work as commercial aircraft. Only two remain flyable today. In 1953, one of them, known as Columbine II, became the first aircraft to be called Air Force One, the presidential support aircraft.

In 1954, at the beginning of the Cold War, the Air Force Air Defense Command picked up a growing fleet of these airplanes, newly converted to Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) aircraft. The Air Force placed them into three wings to conduct 300-mile off-shore radar picket missions over the Atlantic, Pacific and Caribbean. Known as “Contiguous Barriers,” these aircraft proved the concept of Airborne Command & Control while offering overlapping radar coverage (and eliminating seams in U.S. fixed radar station coverage). This mission is continued globally by today’s AWACs aircraft.

Right: Many of the museum's collection of fighter jets are displayed on "Fighter Row," including the Republic F-84E Thunderjet and the North American F-86E Sabre. (Photo: Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP)

During the Vietnam War, they were credited with assisting in multiple MiG kills over Vietnam by Air Force and Navy fighter pilots. However, their combat mission ended on June 1, 1974. On that day, tail number 53-0548 lifted off from the early morning, high humidity Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, arriving seven days later at its final operational location at McClellan AFB, in Sacramento, California. The 10 aircrew members included a 21-year-old flight mechanic crew chief/engine mechanic, "Buck Sergeant" Bob Ditch, this article's author.



Today you can visit that venerable warrior, a veteran of nearly 10 years of combat operations. One of the last of its kind, this EC-121T bearing tail number 53-0548 is on display at the Yanks Air Museum adjacent to the Chino Airport, in Chino, California. Originally stored at Camarillo Airport, California from 2000 to 2012, this aircraft made its final (last EC-121) flight to Chino on January 14, 2012. Today it stands tall, just outside the Yanks Museum doors, as a historical marker from an age gone by of prop and piston-driven airborne warriors who distinguished themselves through multiple hot and cold wars.

This fabled Connie is in good company with multiple historic aircraft from around the world. The two-hangar Yanks Air Museum is host to many aircraft and multiple other aviation displays. Beginning as a private collection in 1972, the museum was not officially founded until 1982. At first, the owners' aim was to purchase only three rare aircraft, the first of which was the Beech Staggerwing. After acquiring the first aircraft, an epic journey of aircraft collection and restoration began, which took the owners around the world.

The collection of rare and historic aircraft continues to grow, as does the work to restore acquisitions to their original condition. Currently, the museum has more than 200 aircraft, most of them airworthy and, according to the museum website, many are the only remaining specimens of their kind. Although once known as a "secret museum," the collection now attracts visitors from all corners of the world. From a replica of the Wright Flyer, to an F-18 Blue Angel Hornet, aviation comes alive, and lives on for future generations, at this center of excellence in air and space history.

For a rare Southwest treat, take a drive west on Interstate 10, pull over in Chino at its airport, and spend one or two days working your way through timeless aviation history at its preserved best. You will not be disappointed. Be sure to take time out to say hello to this author's girlfriend, *Connie*.

For more information on the Yanks Air Museum, and its growing flock of fully restored historical aircraft, visit www.yanksair.org, where you can also explore the museum's digital collection. 📺

On Language

Getting Around the He/She Construct

AUSTIN, Texas – It is unfortunate that in recent years the “unisex” movement has targeted the English language itself, seriously damaging its clarity, logic, and integrity. As inherited from Latin, through the Normans’ *Langue d’Oc*, and the Tudors’ acceptance of East Anglian Anglo Saxon heavily influenced by *Langue d’Oc* to be Britain’s Middle English as its common language, the personal pronouns *he* and *she* have been used in the same way as they did in Latin.

In Latin, the personal pronoun *he*, by convention, plays the double role of expressing the masculine as well as being the impersonal pronoun denoting either male, female, or both. In other words, for centuries, *he* has been the accepted singular of *they*. *She*, on the other hand, has only ever applied to females.

The personal pronouns that in Latin were specific to each gender and number, have survived in the Romance languages and in some measure in German, with verb conjugations that matched the pronoun; but in English, even though the pronouns survived, verb conjugations were radically simplified. Even in the case of the verb *to be*, which in most languages is extremely irregular, the present tense is unique only to the first and third persons singular (*am*, *is*) while the second person singular is identical to all plurals (*are*).

In Italian, the most conservative descendant of Latin, as well as Spanish, verb conjugations are unique to each pronoun, therefore it is enough to say the verb, because the conjugation carries with it the personal pronoun to which it applies. Not so in English.

Take the verb *to want*, and conjugate it in the present tense: I want, you want, he wants, we want, you want, they want. Now take a look at the same in Spanish: yo quiero, tu quieres, el quiere, nosotros queremos, vosotros queréis, ellos quieren.

The same simplification has taken place in the case of possessive pronouns, which both in Italian and Spanish echo their original Latin and are specific to the personal pronoun to which they apply.

Consider also the universality of *man*, which gave us *human* and *mankind*, without ever having coined *huwoman*, and it was not until the 14th century that *womankind* was coined, perhaps as an afterthought. However, although *mankind* applies to both men and women, *womankind* applies only to women.

Consider the Old English *man*, or *mann*, that means human being or person (either male or female), from the Proto-Indo-European root *man-* (human being).

Thus, the insistence on using the construct *he or she*, *he/she*, or even the radical and unaccepted *s/he*, when for over two thousand years *he* (first in Latin and ultimately also in English) has been a perfectly acceptable synonym for *human being*, is hard to understand.

The very people who insist on rejecting *he*, in its traditional role of human being, will agree that *she* excludes the concept of male and applies only to a female. This insistence also excludes their acceptance of *he*, *his*, *him* as pertaining to both males and females when used in an impersonal sense.

As inherited from Latin, Spanish has gender-specific plurals. For example, the English *all* translates in Spanish as *todos* or *todas* (male and female, respectively). Therefore, *four boys* are referred to as *they* in English, and *ellos* in Spanish, and the Spanish *four girls*, would require *ellas*. However, by convention, when the group includes both boys and girls, they are referred to collectively as *ellos*, which in this case is used in an impersonal sense. It worked well in Latin, and still does in at least Spanish, Italian, and French, even if now it is unfashionable in English.

The fact remains that today’s writer/editor, when faced with a *he/she*, *he or she*, or even *s/he* is faced with the responsibility of either leaving it as written and simply adding the dreaded and derogatory [sic], or working around the expression.

Then, there is the use of the “impersonal plural” that, to some extent, has been used in the past by authors of note, such as William Shakespeare, but then fell in disuse... only to be reborn lately, although to the modern educated ear it sounds odd and illiterate.

As a rule, the problem emerges when the subject is an ambiguous one, such as the following example, “In preparation for the activity, the cadet gathered their equipment and joined the group.” Naturally, a cadet can be either a male or a female, so someone might write it as, “In preparation for the activity, the cadet gathered his/her equipment and joined the group.”

If the cadet has a name, then the issue is easily worked around, as the sentence could become, for instance, “In preparation for the activity, Cadet Sarah Stevens gathered her equipment and joined the group.” But the cadet’s name might be unknown, or the writer might not want to single out an individual cadet, or the cadet has asked not to be identified by name.

In the case of a group activity, when more than one cadet did the same thing, the easiest impersonal solution is to rewrite the sentence as a plural, “In preparation for the activity, the cadets gathered their equipment and joined the group.”

However, this rewrite might not work in the context of the narrative, as some cadets might have been doing one thing, while others were doing something else. In that case, the rewrite might require, “In preparation for the activity, some cadets gathered their equipment and joined the group.”

Yet another solution might present itself when two groups have been identified, such as Flight Alpha and Flight Bravo, so in the case of the former, “In preparation for the activity, the Flight Alpha cadets gathered their equipment and joined the group.”

A more radical solution would be a complete rewrite of the article, changing the focus of the action in order to avoid the use of the impersonal plural pronoun. Doing so might result in a very different approach to the story. If the solution involves an article written by the same person who is doing the editing, the editor’s solution would rule. However, if the editor decides to change radically an article that has been submitted by someone else, then it would be a good idea to inform the writer of the need to do so, and make sure that the writer understands why.

However, these work-around suggestions might not be needed if the writer’s organization has embraced the idea of the impersonal plural pronoun and requires its use as a matter of editorial policy for publication and dissemination.

If the editor’s job were only a simple task of checking someone else’s spelling, the use of accepted words as they are listed in the dictionary would suffice. However, when syntax is involved, greater care must be taken to ensure that the writer’s intended meaning is preserved, changing it only with the writer’s agreement.

Of major importance is the issue of the byline. When a writer submits an article for publication, no matter how much editing is required, and regardless of the difficulties involved, the editor is duty-bound to respect that writer’s byline under all circumstances. It is the editor’s obligation to be a silent facilitator in preparing the article’s suitability for publication. Changing the article’s byline to that of the editor’s is unethical. Adding the editor’s byline to that of the original author’s is outside the editor’s right. Even adding an editor’s note at the end of the article, stating that the editor has made one or more changes to the original article is frowned upon.

Plain and simple, the editor’s job is to prepare the material for publication and no more. When done anonymously, this can give the editor an opportunity to mentor the writer into understanding the publication’s editorial needs and norms.

If the editor changes the byline in any way, it would infringe on the author’s intellectual rights and, in most cases, would discourage that author from making any future submissions to the publication. ■

Lt. Col. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP
SWR Director of Public Affairs

The Safety Corner

Staying Mentally Fit During Social Distancing

Are you experiencing cabin fever? If so, you're not alone. Sudden lifestyle changes and extended time at home is a reality for many during the [COVID-19](#) outbreak. Social distancing, while necessary for slowing the spread of the coronavirus, can be challenging, especially for those already dealing with anxiety. But approaching social distancing in a strategic way can not only help you cope in the moment but be good for your overall mental health as well.

Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says the [COVID-19 outbreak can be stressful](#) for people. The constant churning of coronavirus developments in the news and on social media can be overwhelming for adults and children alike. For some, the fear of catching the coronavirus—or having a loved one catch it—is a source of stress. For others, the feeling of isolation from social distancing can be unsettling. While everyone reacts to stressful situations differently, the CDC has outlined common behaviors of people affected:

- Fear or worry about your own health and the health of loved ones
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating
- Worsening of chronic health problems
- Increased use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs

Talk to your doctor if you believe stress is affecting your health. By knowing the source of your anxiety, you can put a plan into place to help calm it.

Challenges of Social Distancing

Social distancing remains one of the most effective measures you can take to lower the spread of the coronavirus. It protects your health and the health of your community. It places an emphasis on the [practice of everyday health habits](#), like handwashing.

But it also has its fair share of issues. Essential employees are still expected to report to work, while some employed by non-essential businesses have actually lost their jobs. Even those who telework can run into difficulties. For example, if you're a parent working from home, you may have to spend more time tending to your children with schools and daycares closed. In addition, too much time at home can spur feelings of irritability, isolation, loneliness, and helplessness in both adults and children.

What You Can Do About It

Social distancing can be inconvenient, but how you go about it can make a big difference. Here are [some tips the CDC recommends](#) for supporting your mental health:

- **Limit news consumption.** Hearing about the coronavirus 24/7 can be upsetting. While it's good to be informed, taking a break from watching, reading, or listening to news stories can be helpful.
- **Get active.** Exercise isn't just good for your body; it can be therapeutic as well. Go for a walk outdoors, jog, tend to your garden, or meditate. Do something you enjoy.
- **Eat healthy.** A [balanced diet](#) with nutrient-rich foods, like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains is good for your brain. Avoid alcohol and drugs.
- **Unwind.** Take deep breaths, try to relax as much as you can, and get a good night's sleep.
- **Talk to someone.** A nice conversation with a family member or friend that doesn't involve COVID-19 is always a good thing. But if you're feeling stressed, talk to someone you trust about how you feel. 🍷

Col. Robert Castle, SWR Director of Safety

Source: TRICARE, the U.S. military health care organization.

Associated Press Style in a Nutshell

Below are the most important rules to keep in mind when writing in AP Style

- Write the title in normal English-language capitalization. Never all in caps.
- Add your byline below the article title
- Do not format the text in the article (only exceptions are: bullet comments and numbered paragraphs in a section that details a process or sequence).
- Do not indent the first line of a paragraph.
- Use AP Style rules for punctuation.
- Single space the article. At the end of each paragraph, execute two end-of lines (Enter key).
- Do not introduce artificial paragraphing by hitting the Enter key at the end of each line in your article. Instead, let the text wrap naturally and tap two Enter keys at the end of the paragraph.
- Use only a single space after a period.
- Insert a dateline at the beginning of the article, following AP Style rules.
- Answer the 5Ws: Who, What, Where, When, Why + the honorary W: How. In writing a CAP article, you will always know the 5Ws.
- Write all dates in AP style.
- Do not use postal codes instead of state abbreviations in the dateline (not OK but Okla., not NM but N.M.) but some states have no abbreviation, such as Texas.
- Write all military grades in AP Style.
- Write the article in the third person singular.
- Express no opinion.
- To express opinion, use one or more quotes of qualified sources – always get the quoted person's permission to include the quote, unless it is a matter of record (printed article or recorded audio-visual). Get the quoted person's grade, name, job title and organization.
- Never self-quote.
- Identify all persons by grade or title, name, job title if material, and organization.
- Never refer to a young person as "kid."
- When a young person is a CAP cadet, never use "kid," "boy," "girl" or "child" but identify each one by grade, full name (or last name only – never first name only), and unit of assignment.
- Never use "their" for the possessive of a singular subject, such as, "the cadet took their meal."
- Avoid the abbreviations i.e. and e.g. You may know what each one means, and the Latin words they represent, but most people confuse the two. Be clear. Write in English and leave Latin and non-English to scholars.
- Refer to CAP members by grade, name, duty position and unit of assignment. Never by first name.
- On second or subsequent references, use only the last name, except when there are two persons with the same last name, in which case the use of both first and last name is preferred (never just the first names).
- In the case of CAP or military commanders or high-ranking senior members, on second reference use the grade and last name.
- Do not use Lt. as a grade. Lt. is a mode of address. The correct grade may be 2nd Lt. or 1st Lt., but never Lt. Only the Navy and Coast Guard have the grade of Lt.
- Do not use exclamation marks in the body of your article, as doing so expresses opinion.
- Use simple declarative sentences.
- Avoid the passive voice.
- Remember the rules of English grammar and syntax, and follow them.
- **For best results**, buy the latest copy of the Associated Press Stylebook, available at a modest cost at www.ap.org – read it, study it, know it, and use it. 📖